

House Committee on Health Care – May 23, 2019

OREGON BOARD OF DENTISTRY
Information provided by Stephen Prisby, Executive Director

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Board of Dentistry was established in 1887 to regulate the practice of Dentistry. In 1946, Dental Hygiene was established as a licensed profession in Oregon and added to the purview of the Board. The Mission of the Board is to promote high quality oral health care in the State of Oregon by equitably regulating dental professionals.

There are ten members appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the senate to this policymaking Board. The ten volunteer Board members include six dentists, one of whom must be a specialist, two dental hygienists and two public members. It is a diverse Board with representatives from private practice & public health. Geographic diversity, ethnic diversity and political diversity are the hallmarks of our well-represented board. The public members are engaged and are essential in carrying out all the important duties and responsibilities they are entrusted with.

There are also 8 full time paid staff to carry out all the day to day functions of the Board. All staff live in Oregon and drive the mission and goals of the agency in supporting all Oregonians for ensuring they receive safe oral healthcare from competent practitioners.

The Board's highest priorities are the licensing, administration, enforcement and monitoring of Dentists and Dental Hygienists in Oregon. The Dental Practice Act are the statutes and rules pertaining to dentistry and dental hygiene, now totals over 80,000 words.

The OBD's funding is 100% Other Funds generated primarily from fees paid by licensees and applicants for new licenses, license renewals and various permits and certifications. No additional tax revenues fund the Board.

The Board receives legal advice and assistance from our assigned Senior Assistant Attorney General, including advice on pending investigations, representation in contested case hearings, negotiations of settlements, advice on proposed rulemaking, assistance with responses to public records requests and response to other legal matters as necessary.

Total Licensed Oregon Dentists – 3756 Total Licensed Dental Hygienists - 4327
Specialists – 711

SB 835

The Board has NO Position and NO Opinion on SB 835.

The Board only had one piece of legislation for the Legislature to consider in the 2019 Session, which was HB 5013, our budget bill.

Some testimony presented to this Committee on May 21, 2019 was inaccurate or incomplete and I am here to clarify some points and be a resource to this committee.

SB 835 as proposed, does not change or limit what any licensee can currently do or practice in the state.

The Board convened a Dental Implant Safety Workgroup, based on the types and volume of complaints the board was receiving in 2015, 2016 and into 2017. We did not “survey” consumers or licensees on this matter. We have a customer service survey, that we use, which is part of our key performance measures. Our Licensees and the dental community of this state were notified of the Dental Implant Safety Workgroup through email blasts, in our newsletter, in our Board meeting materials, and in presentations to dental societies. Additionally, the Oregon Dental Association did a great job sharing the news with their members as well. Any interested Oregon licensed dentist was invited to participate on this volunteer workgroup. The Dental Implant Safety Workgroup’s stated purpose was to “to research, review and discuss dental implants, complications and the resulting investigations with the goal of advising the OBD on what should be the most effective actions in protecting the public and educating dentists regarding dental implants.” The workgroup’s membership was comprised of general dentists and specialists. All Board meetings are open to the public and this workgroup had 4 meetings which made recommendations for our Board to consider.

Some testimony implied communication from the Board on SB 835 was lacking. SB 835 is not our bill. Our Board meeting packets include reference to legislation that could impact our licensees but due to the timing of legislative session, when legislation is introduced and our meetings being every other month, sometimes bills aren’t referenced. We look forward to hearing how we can better inform our Licensees on important information that they want from us.

When Licensees are due to renew their license we typically send out six (6) reminders (with emails, eblasts, postcards). We utilize regular eblasts for meeting notices, reminders to sign up on the PDMP, notices of public rulemaking hearings and other timely news.

ORS 679.120(4) requires a dentist to advise the board within 30 days of change of address. This is important because license renewal reminders go to this address of record. Investigations are also initiated through the mail and we request patient records and other information via the US mail.

We have already set public rulemaking hearing dates on September 10th and October 11th for the rules to be further amended and implemented. Our meeting dates for 2020 have already been set. We are intentional and deliberate in our transparency to keep our licensees informed and up to date on issues that could impact their license or the safe practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in Oregon.

I am happy to answer any questions that you have. Thank you for your time today.