

## **MINUTES**

### **TENNESSEE BOARD OF DENTISTRY MEETING**

**Date:** February 4, 2026

**Location:** Virtual Meeting  
Tennessee Department of Health  
665 Mainstream Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37243

**Members Present:** Phillip Kemp, DDS- President  
Greg Kemp, DDS  
Edward Moody, DDS  
Joseph Britton, DDS  
Christopher Acree  
Robert Caldwell, DDS  
Suzanne DuVall, RDH  
Maricella Rodriguez, DDS  
Steven Zambrano, DDS

**Staff Present:** Ailene Macias, Director  
Ashley Fine, Senior Associate General Counsel

The virtual board meeting began at 12:00pm CST, via WebEx being live streamed from the Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive in Nashville, TN.

A roll call was taken to confirm board member attendance. Ms. Kinsey and Ms. Martin could not attend this meeting. A new board member, Dr. Ryan Jones, was recently appointed to the seat formerly filled by Dr. Caldwell, but the board office had not received all required signed documents to allow for participation in this meeting. Ms. Macias read the electronic meeting script, to ensure all board members were connected and could hear all other participants' responses to questions. Dr. Britton confirmed the dentist partner in his practice, was present in the dental office during the virtual meeting. All other board members confirmed they were alone at their location from which they were participating in the meeting. A roll call was taken to confirm that all board members had received all materials which were to be discussed and reviewed during the virtual meeting.

The Conflict of Interest statement was reviewed before the board began the agenda items for discussion. One of the primary reasons for the virtual meeting, was to appoint a new board consultant, who would review all completed applications, waiver requests, equivalency of course requests, and other necessary documents processed by the board office. Ms. Macias discussed the importance of this role, due to all applications and requests having the requirement to be initially approved by a board consultant, before licenses/permits/certifications can be issued by the board office. It was stressed that the board office would not be able to wait until the next quarterly board meeting to have a consultant appointed, due to the

inability of the board office to issue licenses or certifications without a consultant's review and approval. Ms. Fine discussed the applicable rules for the board related to the board consultant requirements, which would only allow a Tennessee licensed dentist to serve in this role. One option was to contract with a licensed dentist who would serve as the consultant for the board. A second option was the board could authorize the board staff to reach out to a dental professional licensee (Dentist, RDH or RDA) who is currently serving on the board, to request their review of the applications which are of the same licensure type as their own (ie. A dentist board member would review dentist license applications or waiver requests, or a RDH board member would review the applications for dental hygienist licensure, etc.). Ms. Fine reviewed the rules related to review and approval of schools, programs, and certification courses, which the board rules state must be reviewed by the appointed board consultant.

The board members discussed the difficulty of board members who live in East or West Tennessee, serving as the consultant if they must review the files or applications physically in the board office in Nashville. It was discussed that a virtual review in a secure Cloud folder, may be a good option for file reviews if the consultant may not live near Nashville. The board discussed the idea of Dr. Caldwell being a contractor to serve as the consultant, if he was interested in serving in that capacity, but he would not be eligible to be approved as a contractor for at least 6 months. The board members agreed that they would like to ask Dr. Caldwell in 6 months if he would like to accept a contract as a board consultant.

Dr. Rodriguez volunteered to serve as the board consultant, at least until the April 2026 board meeting. Dr. Britton stated he would be willing to drive to Nashville to review files occasionally, if needed. Both Ms. DuVall and Dr. Greg Kemp volunteered to review files for applications, if needed to assist Dr. Rodriguez. Dr. Zambrano made a motion to appoint Dr. Rodriguez until April 2026 to serve as board consultant, with Dr. Britton, Dr. Greg Kemp, and Ms. DuVall assisting with application reviews as needed. Dr. Moody seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all board members approving the motion.

The board discussed the appointment of a new board vice chair, to replace Dr. Caldwell. Ms. DuVall made a motion to nominate Dr. Greg Kemp to serve in this role, and the nomination was accepted. Dr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all board members approving the motion.

The board then discussed the policy statement related to CE deficiencies and license discipline, which was previously voted on at the January 2026 board meeting, which had additional recommendations for changes. A redline copy of the revised policy was provided for the board members to review. Mr. Acree made a motion to accept the recommendations in the redline policy document. Ms. DuVall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all board members approving the motion.

A motion was made by Dr. Rodriguez to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Zambrano seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all board members approving the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13pm.