

MINUTES
UTAH DENTISTRY BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2025 9:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 9:06 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 11:47 PM

DOPL STAFF PRESENT:

Bureau Manager: Lisa Martin
Board Secretary: Allison Pulsipher
Assistant Director: Deborah Blackburn

Legal Analyst: Kirsten Shumway
Legal Analyst: Lauren Harvey

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Wahlen, DMD
Gregory Gatrell, DDS
Sandra Miranda, DH
Kel Faddis, DDS

Joelle Carlile, DH
Lorna Koci, Public Member
Jeffrey Knight, DDS
Steve Arnold, DDS

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Marilyn Sadler RDH/DDS

GUESTS:

Ashley Beyer, Department of Commerce
Melanie Hall, Department of Commerce
Kate Murdock, DHHS
Lauren Neufeld, DHHS
Jessica Schreifelds, Salt Lake Tribune
David Ta, AAO
Jason Casto
Richael Cobler
David Alvord

Karissa Lewis, Department of Commerce
Laura Green, UDHA/ADHA/ACDH
Danyelle Evans, UDHA/ADHA
Val Radmall, UDA
Sarah Kolar, DH
Doug Koci
Jeffrey Stoker
Scott Theurer
Frances McConaughy

Note: Other guests may have been in attendance electronically but were not identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Call Meeting to Order

Dr. Wahlen called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Rule Revision (Audio - 00:03:45)

Dr. Wahlen started the discussion by addressing the Board with concerns that were brought to her by dental educators.

Dr. Wahlen opened discussion regarding the draft rule to the Board.

Ms. Miranda stated she has concerns over expanding scope now and what it could lead to in the future.

Ms. Koci stated she has received concerns over the damage that may occur from allowing dental auxiliaries to use high speed rotary tools.

Dr. Knight asked why the Board was discussing the rule again after the Board previously voted on the draft rule.

Ms. Martin informed the Board why they were reviewing the draft rule again.

Dr. Faddis asked why the Division kept the expanded scope for high-speed tools in the rule when the Board previously expressed concern and recommended it be removed.

Ms. Blackburn explained why the changes to the draft rule were made and what she would like the Board to focus on today.

Mr. Val Radmall, UDA, recommended the state define the accreditation and approval requirements for the program as well as specify the hours of training each dental auxiliary needs to ensure adequate training was completed.

Ms. Danyelle Evans, UDHA, informed the Board she would like to see the addition of passing an examination before a dental auxiliary could practice the expanded scope skills.

Ms. Martin confirmed an examination would be required and stated the Division will maintain a list of approved examinations on the website.

Ms. Laura Green, UDHA, informed the Board how a dental hygienists education would be verified when qualifying and taking their board examinations.

Ms. Shumway explained to the Board the different requirements already outlined in the draft rule.

Ms. Carlile asked when the dental auxiliaries can complete this training.

Ms. Shumway explained the different requirements that must be met before a dental auxiliary may add the expanded scope to their practice.

Dr. Wahlen went over her suggestions for the drafts rule and asked the Division and Board for input.

Mr. Radmall stated the rule should detail the specific amount of training hours needed for these new techniques.

Ms. Koci asked the educators in the meeting for their opinion on the clarity and guidance provided in the rule for the schools to implement the new training.

Dr. Knight asked if the Division or the Board has looked at surrounding states to compare the current draft rule to other states requirements.

Ms. Martin confirmed with the Board the different type of research the Division has conducted.

Dr. Gatrell motioned to add a breakdown of hours and training into the rule.

Dr. Gatrell withdrew his motion.

Ms. Shumway informed the Board how she could add the breakdown to the rule.

Dr. Wahlen opened discussion to R156-69-808a, administration of botulinum toxin.

Mr. Radmall asked for clarification regarding what training dental hygienists would need to complete to administer botox.

Dr. Knight provided his input regarding the expanded scope and the supervision requirements.

Dr. Whalen opened the discussion to R156-69-808b, placement of direct restorations and techniques.

Dr. Arnold informed Ms. Shumway a dental assistant cannot obtain liability insurance, the supervising dentist would need to have a policy the covers their dental assistants.

Ms. Evans asked if the examination requirements could be clarified whether it must be a written or clinical examination.

Ms. Koci, Dr. Whalen, and Dr. Gatrell all agreed the examination type should be specified in rule.

Dr. Knight asked for clarification when the dentist needs to be involved in restoration procedures conducted by a dental auxiliary.

Dr. Wahlen informed the Board the dentist must review the restoration work completed by the dental auxiliary to ensure it was conducted properly.

Dr. Wahlen returned discussions to R156-69-808c, removal of coronal dental adhesives.

Dr. Arnold stated he will reach out to Utah Association of Orthodontists, UAO, to get the Division and Board input on this section of the draft rule.

Dr. Gatrell stated he would feel comfortable with dental auxiliaries conducting these expanded scope functions if they received formal training.

Ms. Koci asked the Board how they can fix the current problem of dental auxiliaries doing these functions without formal training.

Dr. Arnold stated the solution would be to create a pathway to get these individuals trained properly.

Dr. Faddis stated his concerns regarding these procedures already being conducted in dental offices.

Ms. Martin reminded the Board if they are aware of dental professionals practicing outside of their scope of practice, they need to be reporting it to the Division as the Division can not investigate or take action if they are not aware it is happening.

Dr. Wahlen went over the concerns regarding dental auxiliaries utilizing high-speed hand tools.

Ms. Miranda asked if the high-speed hand tools would be utilized by both dental hygienists and dental assistants and if the supervising dentists would need to do verify the work after it had been completed.

Dr. Knight informed the Board of the discussions he had with other dentists and their thoughts on allowing dental auxiliaries to utilize high-speed hand tools.

Dr. Gatrell asked if removing the high-speed hand tool within the rule would satisfy most people's concern.

The Board agreed that was a large part of their concern.

Dr. Wahlen motioned to remove the high-speed handpieces from the rule.

Dr. Gatrell seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed.

Dr. Wahlen motioned to add education requirements to R156-69-808b.

Dr. Gatrell seconded the motion.

The Board motion passed.

Ms. Miranda asked if there was a way for the expanded scope to be included in the dental auxiliaries primary education.

Ms. Martin stated it would need to be mandated through legislation.

Dr. Wahlen reviewed concerns over the Peer Review Committee that will be created.

Ms. Martin informed the Board what could happen if the experience and educational requirements of the committee members were too specific.

Ms. Martin reminded the Board of the process the Division utilizes to fill committee member positions.

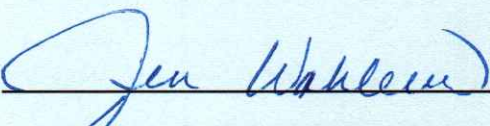
NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:


DECEMBER 05, 2025

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 P.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

12/12/25 (ss) 
Date Approved Chairperson, Utah Dentistry Board

12-15-2025 (ss) 
Date Approved Bureau Manager, DOPL