



Kentucky Board of Dentistry

312 Whittington Pkwy, Ste. 101

Louisville, KY 40222

Minutes of Meeting

March 8, 2025

This regular meeting of the Kentucky Board of Dentistry took place at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. (EST) by the Board's president, Dr. Justin Kolasa. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Lisa Johnston Arthur, Bradley Fulkerson, Rebecca Green, Bruce Haskell, Leslie Horn, Justin Kolasa, Katherine von Lackum, and Lory Dean Wilson

Members Absent: John David Bradley and Thadler Schroeder

Ex-Officio Members Present: Janice Wilson (in place of Paula Collins) (UofL), Joseph Evans (WKU), Julie McKee (KDPH), and Allison Wright* (UK)

Ex-Officio Members Absent: None

Staff/Contract Personnel Present: Jeffrey Allen and Addison Lowry (McBrayer)

Also Present: Jerry Caudill (Avesis), Sheli Cobbler* (CRDTS), Marsha Deaton (DPH), and Steve Robertson* (KDA)

*Indicates participation via video conference.

At the opening of the meeting, the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry Dean Dr. Jeffrey Okeson welcomed the Board and provided an update on recent and upcoming college activities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Allen presented the draft minutes of the Nov. 2, 2024 meeting.

Motion: Approve the minutes of the 11-02-2024 meeting as amended. Introduced by Rebecca Green; seconded by Lisa Arthur. Without objection, the motion was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement Committee: On the committee are Bradley Fulkerson, Justin Kolasa, and Thadler Schroeder. Dr. Fulkerson reported that at its March 7, 2025, meeting, only one case was reviewed,

which resulted in a private admonishment. One request to lift a license suspension was held over for further review. Three dental hygiene license reinstatement requests were reviewed and all were approved. Three National Practitioner Databank reports were reviewed with no action taken. One incident report of a patient hospitalization following sedation was reviewed, with no action taken. The Well-Being Committee reported that both well-being program participants were compliant with their agreements.

Dental Hygiene Licensing Regulation Committee: On the committee are Justin Kolasa, Lisa Johnston, William Collins, Lori Dean Wilson, Kate von Lackum, and Rebecca Green. Dr. Kolasa reported that 201 KAR 8.563 was reviewed by the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee and the Health Services committees of both chambers without incident and took effect on Feb. 5. However, he noted that if certain bills are passed in the current General Assembly, the committee may need to make additional revisions.

Dental Community Health Worker Committee: On the committee are Brad Fulkerson, Justin Kolasa, Lori Dean Wilson, and Julie McKee. Dr. Kolasa reported that 201 KAR 8.610 was also reviewed by the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee and the Health Services committees of both chambers without incident and took effect on Feb. 5.

EXTERNAL REPORTS

Kentucky Dental Association: KDA executive director Steve Robertson provided an update on legislative proposals of interest to the association in the 2025 General Assembly. Dr. Robertson also indicated that KDA was still working on a proposed wellness program and was in communication with the Kentucky Professionals Recovery Network on addiction and mental health issues.

Controlled Substances Prescribing Council: Dr. Kolasa updated the Board on the activities of the Controlled Substances Prescribing Council that was created by statute in 2023. He reviewed the council's recommendations to all licensing boards with regulatory authority over prescribers as well as the Board of Dentistry's response.

Central Regional Dental Testing Service: CRDTS executive director Sheli Cobbles reported on the ongoing merger between the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) and the States Resources for Testing and Assessments (SRTA).

Department for Public Health: Dr. McKee provided an update on the Radiation Health Branch's revision of X-ray regulations. She also discussed the department's perspective on the potential loss of fluoride requirements in some public water systems.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dental Hygiene Renewal: Mr. Allen reported that 2,735 of 2,938 dental hygienists renewed their licenses for 2025-26, which is a 92.5% renewal rate. However, in reviewing licensure figures going back to the start of COVID, he noted that there has been little growth in the number of hygienists in the last six years. With the license renewal process complete, Mr. Allen announced that continuing education audits will begin shortly.

Legislative & Legal: Mr. Allen reviewed several legislative proposals that the Board was monitoring, noting that most did not look likely to pass at this point in the legislative session.

Financial: To date, revenues for FYE25 were approximately \$454 thousand compared to expenses of approximately \$547 thousand, leaving a current deficit of \$92 thousand and a cash balance of \$1.94 million. This deficit is in line with expectations.

Office Renovations: Mr. Allen advised that the paint, carpet, baseboards, and hardware changes in the office are complete. Also, all new furniture and videoconferencing equipment has been installed. He thanked the board for approving the renovations.

Board Nominations: Dr. Kolasa's first board term and Dr. Fulkerson's second term are ending this year. A call for nominations will be held in April and, if necessary, an online election will take place in early May. The top three names for each seat will be submitted to the governor for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kolasa discussed recent legislative efforts to extend public health hygiene authority to entities other than the Department for Public Health, expressing concerns that the Board does not have sufficient regulations in place to address potential abuses that may arise from such an expansion.

Drs. Kolasa and Fulkerson proposed that the Board explore opportunities to broaden the expanded duties of dental hygienists and assistants to create more access to care. Dr. Kolasa indicated that he would form a committee to consider regulatory changes for public health hygiene and expanded duties. The committee will offer recommendations at the next meeting.

Dr. Fulkerson expressed concern over the Board of Dentistry becoming too closely associated with advocacy organizations that pursue policy measures not supported by the Board. He further commented that board members who are involved in the policymaking efforts of such groups have a potential conflict of interest. He suggested the Board consider implementing new ethics policies, including term limits for ex-officio members of the Board. Dr. Kolasa agreed to establish a committee to consider and recommend ethical guidelines for board members.

Motion: Move to adjourn. Introduced by Brad Fulkerson; seconded by Lisa Arthur. Without objection, the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

APPROVED 05/10/2025:



Jeffrey Allen, Executive Director