

NEVADA STATE BOARD
of
DENTAL EXAMINERS



BOARD MEETING

MARCH 24, 2017

9:00 A.M.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PUBLIC BOOK

March 16,2017

Nevada State Dental Board of Examiners

6010 S. Rainbow Blvd., Bldg. A, Ste 1

Las Vegas, NV. 89118

Mr. President and Distinguished Board Members;

It is our absolute pleasure to recommend Mr. John Hunt Esq. for the Nevada State Dental Board position as in house counsel.

We have always enjoyed our time working with Mr. Hunt as the Disciplinary Screening officers of the Nevada State Dental Board of Examiners. Mrs. Hunt has been a valuable asset to the Board. We could always count on receiving legal advice on how to approach an investigation, many with legal complications that were navigated with Mr. Hunt's recommendations. Mr. Hunt is hones, dependable and an incredibly hard working individual.

This Board's duty to protect the public has been fostered by Mr. Hunt's 20 years plus experience with the Board. This State's disciplinary process is envied by many other State Dental Boards; due to accomplishments of this Board and Counsel.

Mr. Hunt's knowledge, undeniable talent and expertise of Board affairs and disciplinary matters are a huge advantage that would be brought to the Board if he hired. This State Boards' investigation policy and remediation policies are all in fact a result of Mr. Hunt's years of service to the Board.

As seasoned investigators for the Board, we depend on the experience and knowledge of Mr. Hunt. The investigation due process to all dental licensees is fair and any contradictory statements of unsupported dialogue should be dismissed.

We know that Mr. Hunt has always had the Board and citizens of Nevada interest foremost. Mr. Hunt has always managed to foster positive discussions and guide the Board. Without a doubt, we confidently recommend Mr. Hunt to be in house counsel to the State Dental Board.

Sincerely;

James Kinard DDS, Donna Helwinkle DDS, Brad Roberts DDS, Rick Thiriot DDS



Documents for the record
received and added on
March 23, 2017

[REDACTED]

March 23, 2017

Honorable Members of the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners:

Dear Board Members:

I am writing, requesting support for Dr. Arnold Cullum's proposal for dental care in rural Nevada. My home is in Tonopah, Nevada, where I practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). My professional practice in Tonopah began 19 years ago. For the past 17 years I have been with the State of Nevada Public and Behavioral Health as a Community Health Nurse, responsible for Nye County communities in a 50 mile-plus radius from Tonopah, the communities in Esmeralda County, and school nurse services for the Esmeralda County School District. However, the following comments are spoken as an individual, not as a spokesman for my employer.

Oral and dental condition exams are part of the health assessment I do for my patients. Children begin their well check-ups at 8 weeks of age and most continue on a regular basis until age 5. School age children come episodically for well check-ups, but I see this age group as part of my school nurse duties.

Prevention of Early Childhood Caries is routinely discussed with the parents of the infants and young children, and Fluoride varnish is applied when parents permit. Sadly, infants, young toddlers, and older children still are exposed to practices that harm their teeth.

The challenge in the communities is to convince the parents to take the children to a dentist early for dental care. During the 19 years I have practiced in Tonopah, there has never been a dentist who will accept Medicaid, nor a dentist who will care for young children.

The closest dentist who will serve this population is 100 miles away. Negotiating the planning and effort to arrange an appointment out of town challenges the skills of many parents, so the care is not sought. It is heartbreaking to see the deep cavities, crumbled teeth, and black teeth stubs rotted to the gum line. You know the health risks to the kids this presents. Recently, Child Protective Services has accepted these extreme cases, and children are now getting needed care. But it involves general anesthesia and travel to the big city.

Roadblocks to care include transportation for the many who have unreliable or no transportation, and missing work which does not have paid leave for medical/dental care. In the past year Foster Parents have become available in Tonopah. However the children come with dental care needs. The foster parents work and have to use their vacation to take the children for dental care. They are using a minimum of 4 hours and up to 8 hours a trip, depending on the number of children with appointments and the distance they must go. Because of loss of leave, some foster parents are considering leaving the foster care system.

Uninsured adults also present with significant dental care needs, often on an emergency basis.

The dental care program described by Dr. Arnold Cullum can meet the needs of rural Nevada communities. The program, which is a collaboration between dentists and Dental Hygienists with a Public Health Endorsement, is greatly needed in the Tonopah area and I welcome it.

I ask that the Board approve Dr. Cullum's practice.

Thank you for your consideration.

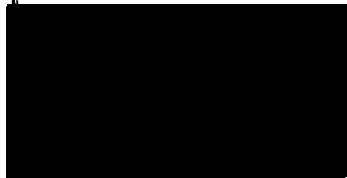
Sincerely,

Beth W. Ennis APRN

Beth W. Ennis, MS, APRN-FNP-BC

[REDACTED]

Pamela Patten DDS



March 22, 2017

Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners
6010 S. Rainbow Blvd., Bldg. A, Ste 1
Las Vegas, NV 89118
702.486.7044
Fax 702.486.7046

Dear Board members and colleagues,

This letter is in reference to agenda item (6) (b) for the March 24, 2017 board meeting.

Dr. Cullom's project seems to fill a void in the Colorado "dental desert" and we have an enormous "desert" here as well. This is potentially a fantastic opportunity for the large unserved population in and around the Tonopah area. I know Beth Ennis has worked tirelessly for many years to try to get dental care up there; we have discussed it multiple times.

One of my goals at initial licensure (2003) involved portable equipment, mobile clinic, preventive, and basic care for this exact population, in and around Tonopah. The logistics-staffing, place of treatment, insurance, billing, follow up care, after hours and all the issues related to a practice were and are overwhelming as well as the time and distances involved and the solution has eluded me. It is my hope and general understanding that Dr. Cullom has negotiated many/all of these obstacles into a workable model that could be beneficial for a lot of people.

I have patients from the Tonopah area who finally do travel the three hours each way to get dental care. They would be much better served if they had accessed care several years earlier. They have, in general, substantial problems by the time they make the trip. Earlier dental care, i.e. a filling instead of extraction, a partial instead of an immediate denture would help improve the lives and health of Nevadans.

The people living in the middle of our state are a hardy type and generally not complainers. They would appreciate and deserve access to basic care, even if it is on an occasional basis as there is not even the emergency room anymore to visit for dental problems.

I am writing to express my support and lend as much help as I am able. Thank you for considering this as one option to help our dental health in Nevada.

Sincerely,

Pamela Patten DDS
Pamela Patten DDS