

NEVADA STATE BOARD
of
DENTAL EXAMINERS



BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2017

10:30 A.M.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PUBLIC BOOK

This item added 01/19/2017

PUBLIC COMMENT
Hansen Family

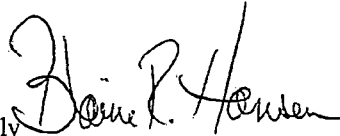
Dear Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners:

It has been brought to our family's attention that individuals not associated with our family and who have no knowledge of our family's personal tragedy have made Public Comment at your meetings and other meetings held through various state agencies.

The information stated by these individuals should not be accepted by the Board or the public as being factual or truthful. Respectfully, our family requests that should public comment be made regarding members of our family in the future, this statement be made part of the public record.

Thank you,

The Hansen Family



January 19, 2017



PUBLIC COMMENT

te hen ill DMD

December 1, 2016

Dear Governor Sandoval,

I have become aware of some accusations and charges against the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners. I wanted to let you know about some of my experiences with the Board and their discipline processes. I have been a practicing dentist for over 31 years without a complaint to the Board. I served on the Board for 9 years, and before that I was an investigator for 8 years. I am currently a disciplinary screening officer again, and have been so for the past year. I have worked with Mr. John Hunt in informal hearings, and formal Board hearings for all of those years.

The Board and Mr. Hunt have been accused of compelling Doctors to enter into agreements against their wills.

I have been a part of several hearings as a result of the investigations I was assigned to work on. I never felt we forced any dentist into an agreement. The dentists were able to negotiate the wording and scope of the findings and they were able to negotiate the terms of the remediation they would be required to do. They might not have liked that they were being held accountable for their actions, but they voluntarily signed the agreements. One provision in their agreement was that they admitted that if the case were to go to a full Board hearing, we could prove the allegations. I know that stipulations contain only the most egregious of the charges. Anything that was questionable was left off. Were the cases to go to a full hearing, many other charges and accusations would be made, and I feel they also would be proved. These dentists were well served by the process because they were part of the process. If the case were to go to a formal hearing the Board would impose the terms without input from the doctor. The public was protected, because most of them were reimbursed for their treatment, and there is a public record of the doctor's admission of culpability.

I became involved with the Board as an investigator over 17 years ago. I was shocked at the poor quality of dentistry I saw when I began to investigate cases. I have seen forged records, fillings that fell out 3 times in one year, a bridge that fell out 2 days after placement, and numerous other forms of gross mistreatment. I thought that these types of treatments should result in the Doctors facing severe discipline, or revocation of their licenses. These doctors were disciplined, and are still practicing without further complaints, because of the wisdom and influence of John Hunt. I wanted to have a full Board hearing, so that everyone could be aware of all the mistreatment. Mr. Hunt helped me to see that the right thing to do was to provide the doctors the opportunity to correct their faults. The process is very similar to the repentance process that many religions teach. Those who recognize their errors, and are humble, will go on with their lives and be a valued part of the dental community. Mr. Hunt has helped

save many dentists' careers, and I believe their lives, because of this system that the Board uses to investigate complaints and discipline delinquent doctors. The informal hearing process works. I have seen the results for the past 17 years. I wouldn't have believed it, except I have been part of the process.

I'd like to offer some insight into Dr. Scott Brooksby and his involvement with the Board. Scott has been leading this campaign against the Board, Mr. Hunt and the informal hearing process. I have known Scott since high school here in Las Vegas during the 1970's. I have been to dinner with him and his wife, and shared hotel rooms while we attended dental meetings. I disclosed my association with him while I was a Board member participating in the formal hearing that was held for him. I feel that his treatment before the Board was more than fair and the discipline consistent with other cases and with what he did. Among other things, he was using unapproved medical devices to generate ozone to treat patients. This is experimental treatment. It has no place in private practice. After this hearing, the Board's investigators found that his daughter was performing cleanings on patients in his office. She did not have a dental hygiene license. At one time I considered Scott a friend, but I cannot stand by and support him and this kind of behavior.

I am proud of the work I have done for the Board and am grateful to be associated with it. I hope that it will continue to perform in the future as well as it has in the past. I enjoy my profession, and look forward to helping it keep its standards.

If there are any questions you or your staff has, I would like to offer any help that I can.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Sill, DMD

PUBLIC COMMENT

D B adley t on DD

Governor Brian Sandoval
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval,

Thank you for taking the time and interest to address the integrity and stability of the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners (NSBDE) and the interests of the dentists and dental consumers in the State of Nevada. The recent backlash from a group of well-documented, frequently disciplined group of dentists and hygienists is both disturbing and frightening, but should go no further. Allowing these individuals to gain traction and have their will in our dental community would be likewise to the inmates taking over the asylum.

I have been a Nevada resident for 36 years and have been practicing dentistry in Las Vegas for the past 23 years. As a Valley High School alumni, University of Nevada, Reno alumni, and WICHE Grant recipient, my family, friends, interests, and roots are solid in Nevada. For eleven years, I gained experience serving on the Southern Nevada Dental Society (SNDS) Peer Review Committee. During this time, the committee members worked to resolve patient complaints in a non-letigious forum. In that time, there were several dentists that became "frequent flyers", obtaining numerous and frequent patient complaints over a short span of time. I distinctly remember the attitudes of said dentists as being arrogant, elitist, and often stating, "You don't even know what you are looking at", meaning that they felt that they were so advanced in their thinking that the committee members could not relate to them.

After stepping down from Peer Review Committee, I was asked to serve as a Disciplinary Screening Officer (Investigator) for the NSBDE, a position that I currently hold and have held for approximately 10 years. Several of the dentists that repeatedly had complaints filed with the SNDS Peer Review Committee were now being referred to the NSBDE, due to those dentists and hygienists disassociating themselves from the recognized organized professional groups and societies and losing their privileges to having their complaints resolved by the Peer Review. It is specifically, these disassociated individuals who continue to this day to receive the highest percentage of patient complaints. They are the individuals that have banded together to attempt to break up the NSBDE and ultimately see its demise.

It only takes reading the public records of the NSBDE stipulation agreements (signed by these licensees and by advise of their counsel) to realize that these individuals do not believe or have distance themselves from the American Dental Association and may have lost sight or do not believe the Code of Ethics adopted by the ADA applies to them. These individuals are not actively involved in our dental communities. These licensees are not mentoring UNLV dental students, providing pro bono dental treatment at the Huntridge Teen Clinic or through the Adopt a Vet Program in Reno, Nevada. You do not see them offering their services at "Give Kids a Smile" events held each year through the local societies.

As a healthcare provider we take an oath to do no harm. When you remove yourself from the American Dental Association and local societies and all the resources that come with being a member, you tend to distance yourself from your profession and only think about how issues affect you personally and do not take into consideration the good for all the citizens of the State of Nevada and what is best to ensure the highest standards for our profession in this state.

In my 10+ years experience with the NSBDE, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Board Legal Counsel, John Hunt. The Board believes they are there to be remedial not punitive. When appropriate, the policy of the Board is to offer corrective action plans in lieu of disciplinary action. These corrective action plans protect the public by correcting the deficiencies but are the least intrusive on the licensees. The plans address the deficiencies for public safety but take into consideration access to care issues facing the state and the livelihood of the licensee. However, in instances when the public safety and welfare is in danger and cannot be corrective by remediation, the only action for the Board is to impose disciplinary action for violations of the statutes and/or regulations.

I can attest to Mr. Hunt's fairness and utmost respect of every Nevada Dental licensee and their cases that we have ever worked on together. The same holds true for every other Disciplinary Screening Officer and NSBDE employee that I have ever worked with. The intent is always to treat the licensees and the patients as we ourselves would want to be treated.

In summary, I encourage you to learn more of the so-called professionals that strive to disband the NSBDE and its membership. Truly know their intent is to remove the individuals (Board Members, Staff, Legal Counsel and DSO's) who hold them accountable when they do not comply with the rules and regulations that govern our profession. There should be no place for this in dentistry and there should be absolutely no place for this in Nevada.

Other Disciplinary Screening officers and I would be more than happy to discuss these matters with you further and in person. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you want further insight into these matters pertaining to the Board.

Respectfully,

Bradley S. Strong, D.D.S.
Disciplinary Screening Officer
Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners