



Tel. (603) 271-4561
Fax (603) 271-6702

New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners

PHILBROOK BUILDING
121 SOUTH FRUIT STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-2412

Email: dental.board@nh.gov
In State Toll Free # 1-800-852-3345, ext. 4561
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

www.nh.gov/dental

October 21, 2015

Her Excellency Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
And the Honorable Council
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

Please accept the attached Biennial Report for FY 2014 – FY 2015 of the Board of Dental Examiners, submitted pursuant to RSA 317-A:5. The report includes the Board's mission and major functions, organizational chart, personnel data, licensee complaint and discipline statistics as well as significant legislation and accomplishments during the biennium 2014-2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance N. Stratton
Executive Director
NH Board of Dental Examiners
121 S. Fruit St.
Concord, NH 03301-2412
(603) 271-4561

CNS/jtc

Attachments

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New Hampshire
Board of Dental Examiners
Biennial Report
For Fiscal Years 2014-2015

GOVERNOR

Margaret Wood Hassan

EXECUTIVE COUNCILORS

District No. 1 - Joseph D. Kenney

District No. 2 – Colin Van Ostern

District No. 3 - Christopher T. Sununu

District No. 4 – Christopher C. Pappas

District No. 5 – David K. Wheeler

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

President, Charles E. Albee, DMD

Submitted October 21, 2015

Pursuant to RSA 317-A:5

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

Biennial Report – FY 2014-FY 2015

The NH Board of Dental Examiners (Board), established in 1891 (name officially changed in 1971), is responsible for the protection of the public by ensuring that New Hampshire dentists and dental hygienists adhere to RSA 317-A (the Dental Practice Act) and the dental administrative rules.

FUNCTIONS

The Board has four major functions:

1. To examine, register and license applicants whom it finds to be qualified to practice dentistry and dental hygiene;
2. To ensure that all licensees are in compliance with the Dental Practice Act (RSA 317-A), and the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules;
3. To undertake adjudicatory proceedings and, when appropriate, disciplinary action regarding licensees;
4. To make, amend and adopt reasonable rules and regulations governing the conduct of dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants.

A. Registered Practitioners

The Board closely reviews the qualifications of each applicant before examination and licensure.

The Board receives feedback on the professional performance of dental practitioners from the National Practitioner Data Bank, The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments, The American Association of Dental Boards, other state dental boards, the New Hampshire Dental Society, law enforcement agencies, dentists and dental hygienists, and the public-at-large, usually patients. In addition, each licensee is required to pursue professional continuing education, the amount and quality of which is monitored by the Board.

#	June 30, 2014	Dentists	Hygienists	Total
	Active	1,033	1,484	2,517
	Inactive	<u>237</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>490</u>
		1,270	1,737	3,007
	June 30, 2015	Dentists	Hygienists	Total
	Active	1,131	1,413	2,544
	Inactive	<u>238</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>511</u>
		1,369	1,686	3,055

B. Complaints

The Board reviews all written complaints. Those complaints which may involve a violation of the Dental Practice Act are referred to the Administrative Prosecution Unit (APU) of the Consumer Protection Bureau of the NH Attorney General's Office for investigation. The APU submits a Report of Investigation to the Board at which time the Board may recommend a course of discipline.

In FY 14 and FY 15 the Board received a total of 145 complaints alleging violations of the Dental Practice Act (RSA 317-A) and/or dental administrative rules. Unless there are other issues or fraud or dishonesty, the Board must dismiss fee complaints because the Board has no authority regarding fees. When appropriate, the Board advises complainants that the Peer Review Committee of the NH Dental Society provides fee mediation services. In addition, the Board may also refer complaints to law enforcement agencies when appropriate.

Consumers continue to become more aware and actively involved in their dental care. Complaints concerning quality of care and scope of practice are common.

C. Board Actions (one complaint may result in multiple actions)

	FY 14	FY 15
Adjudicatory Hearings	0	1
Settlement Agreements	6	0
Consent Decrees	0	0
License revoked or suspended	0	1
Licensure denied	0	0
Practice Restrictions	3	0
Investigated - no probable cause, no further action required	46	40
Dismissed with Letter of Concern	5	11
Resolved by letter	1	0
Referred to Attorney General's Office/Consumer Protection Bureau	1	0
Voluntary Surrender	1	0
Peer Review Suggested	0	0
Preliminary Agreement	1	0
Decision and Order	0	1

D. Receipts and Expenditures

	FY 14	FY 15
Revenues *	\$ 475,866	\$ 341,260
Expenditures	\$ 268,755	\$ 280,042
Required to meet 125%	\$ 335,944	\$ 350,052
Excess of revenue over 125%	\$ 142,532	(\$ 8,792)

* Dentist licensure fees are higher than those of hygienists. Dentists renew their licenses in even years, hygienists in odd years. Therefore, revenue is always significantly higher in even years.

E. Disbursements to Other State Agencies

	FY 14	FY 15
Class 027 (DoIT)	\$ 6,340	\$ 624
Class 049 (other state agencies: APU and HHS)	\$ 67,417	\$ 68,734

F. Significant Legislation

📌 SB 56

Board President Charles Albee, DMD and Board member Stacy Plourde, RDH were appointed to the Commission to Study Oversight, Regulation, and Reporting of Patient Safety and Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Issues in Health Care Settings.

G. Major Accomplishments

📌 Increased Efficiency

The Board has instituted a number of changes in an effort to increase its efficiency. Many of the Board's forms are now posted on its website in electronic form. Dentists and hygienists seeking a New Hampshire license can now take the Board's jurisprudence exam online, instead of traveling to the Board's office. This saves those individuals both time and money, particularly if they live outside of New Hampshire.

📌 Better Communication and Cost Savings

The Board has adopted and/or amended a number of its administrative rules and forms, resulting in consistency and clarification. One of the changes allows the Board to collect email addresses from all of its licensees, which it has done. As a result, much of the Board's communications with licensees can now be done by email. This change will result in better communication with licensees as well as significant savings on postage.

The Board has also updated its website to provide more information to licensees and to individuals seeking information on licensee disciplinary information.

The Board now posts all of its agenda items on the State's secure website. This change does away with the need to mail agenda items to Board members, once again resulting in faster communication and savings in mailing costs.

📌 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

The Board participates in the new Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program was signed into law by Governor John Lynch on June 12, 2012. The PDMP grants system access accounts to practitioners so that they may look up and view controlled substance dispensing information on specific recipients.

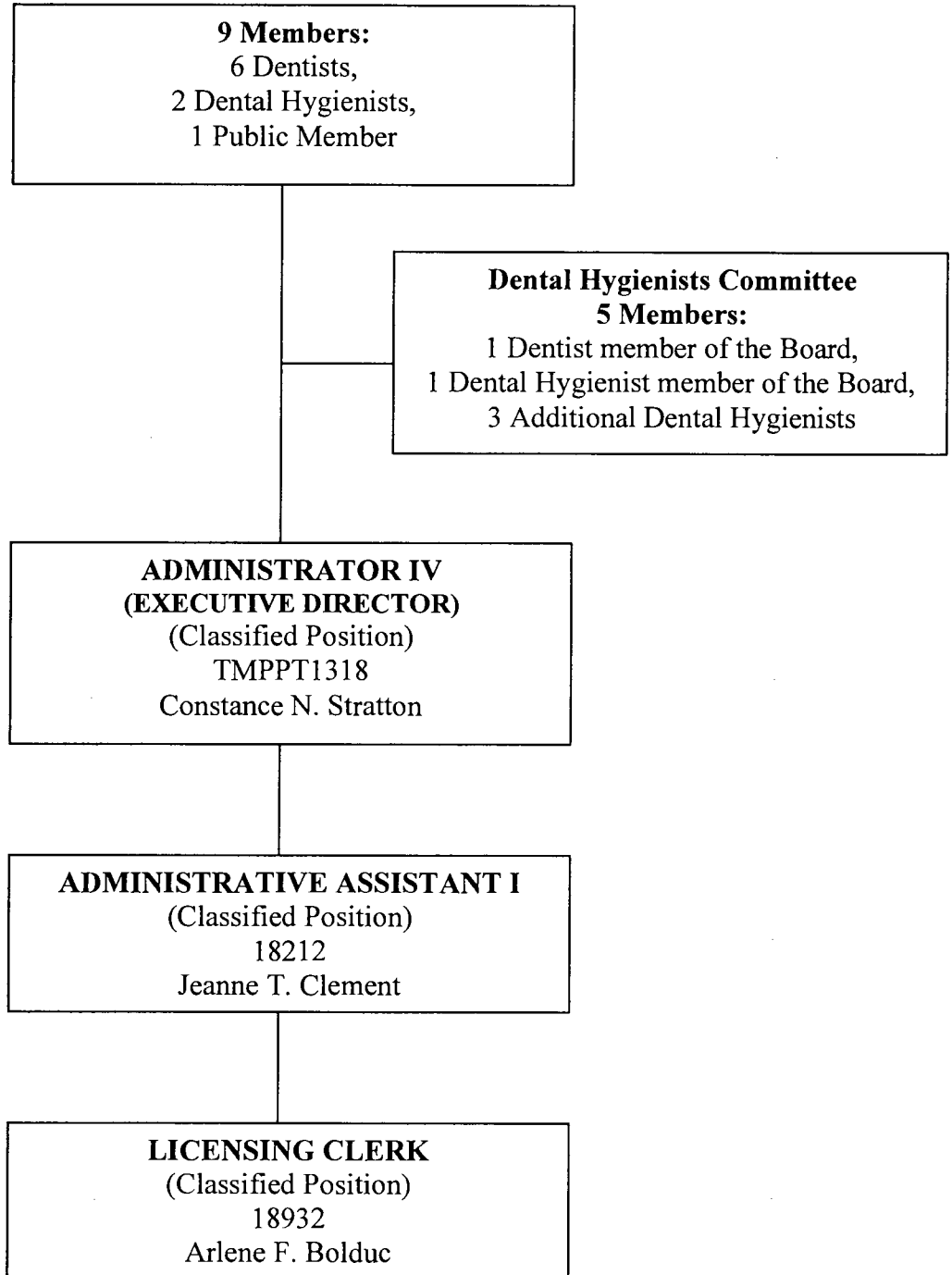
Since 2000, there has been a dramatic increase in total drug-related deaths. According to data from the New Hampshire Medical Examiner's Office, there has been a more than 400% increase in drug-related deaths since 2000, 82% of which were related to prescription drugs. The prescription drug epidemic has resulted in significant increases in state-funded treatment, increasing 60% between 2008 and 2010. Further, prescription drug misuse and abuse among New Hampshire's children, youth and young adults is rampant. Data from the 2011 New Hampshire Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that 20.4% of high school students reported taking a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription at least once in their lifetime, with 10.4% having done so in the last 30 days.

The Board's purpose is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of individuals interacting with dental professionals. As such, the Board believes that the PDMP will assist it in achieving its goals. 100% of NH's Dental Board licensees who are required to register with the PDMP have done so.

The Board continues to work towards its goal of on-line licensing for all licensees.

Organizational Chart

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS



Personnel Data

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

The NH Board of Dental Examiners consists of nine members: six dentists, two dental hygienists, and one public member, appointed by the Governor with approval of the Executive Council for a term of five years.

Current Board Member	Appointed	First Term End	Second Term End
Charles E. Albee, DMD, President	08/12/2008		07/15/2018
Marshall Baldassarre, Vice President	08/12/2011		08/12/2016
Linda Tatarczuch, MSW, Public Member	05/27/2015		08/12/2016
Tara Levesque-Vogel, DMD	06/20/2012	07/15/2017	
Stacy Plourde, RDH	08/23/2006		07/26/2018
Arthur D. McKibbin, Jr., DMD	09/09/2009		07/15/2019
Nilfa E. Collins, DMD	09/09/2009		07/26/2019
Ellen M. Legg, RDH	07/02/2014	07/15/2019	
Puneet Kochhar, DMD	10/07/2015	07/15/2020	