



# D.C. Board of Dentistry

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Controlled Substance Registration	2
Meeting on Naturopathic Medicine & Dentistry	2
Verification of Licensure	2
Licensure Renewal Reminder	3
CPR Certification & Infection Control	3
Dental Office Ownership	3
Licensure of Dental Assistants	3
Criminal Background Check	3
Paid Inactive Status	3
Filing a Complaint	4
Terms You Should Know	4
Board at AADE Meeting	4
Anesthesia Task Force	5
International Licensees: SSN Needed	5
Meet Jezelle Sonnier	6
Serve on the Board	6
Board Orders	7
The District's Loan Repayment Program	7
Board Members, Board Staff, and Contact Information	8

## YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Changing your mailing address? Send your name, mailing address, and license number to:

Board of Dentistry  
Processing Department  
Address/Name Change  
717 14th Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005



Government of the District of Columbia  
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor



December 2009

## Letter from the Chair

The DC Board of Dentistry is pleased to present you with our second newsletter. Our primary responsibility is to protect the public. We handle complaints and are constantly upgrading regulations. We have meetings on the third Wednesday of every month. The President, the Executive Director, and other District of Columbia Dental Society members always attend our open sessions. All dentists, dental hygienists and the public are welcome.

Our Board Members are involved in many Board-related activities. Most of us participate in several North East Regional Board (NERB) Exams a year, including our public [consumer] Board member. Dr. Lisa Slade is updating the Dental Licensure Law Exam and recently was part of the Accreditation Committee at Howard Dental School. Several board members attended a Medical Board meeting to gather information on Holistic medicine and dentistry.

Dr. Daniel Howard is a member of the Anesthesia Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Steven Guttenberg. The committee met several times and recently presented their final anesthesia report. This report provided a framework for monitoring dental offices providing sedation. Their efforts were greatly appreciated. The recommendations were accepted almost as written and will be sent out for public comment.

Our hygiene member has sat in on several National Board Exams and is a member of the House of Delegates of the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX). NERB and many other states now give the ADEX exam which NERB helped to originate. Our public member Annie Ponds also is a member of the ADEX House of Delegates. Dr. Jezelle Sonnier is our newest member and is featured in this newsletter. I am on the Executive Committee of NERB, the Board of Directors of ADEX and a Commissioner on the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

With these activities, we are constantly interacting with dental board members all around the country exchanging information. Here in the District we have a fairly unique situation. Unlike many other jurisdictions the DC Board of Dentistry, the DC Dental Society and the DC Government work fairly well together. With this cooperation I hope the Board is creating regulations that will protect the public without being too overbearing to the providers of services.

Practice ownership and Dental Assisting regulations are now law. Soon we will complete the dental lab regulations and they will be sent out for public review. We are in the process of setting up a system to monitor offices that provide sedation. The Board is in the beginning phase of updating the law licensure exam. In conjunction with other DC health professional boards, we are making efforts to set up a program for health care providers with substance abuse problems.

(continued on page 5)



Robert G. Ray, DMD

**LICENSURE RENEWAL: ALL LICENSES ISSUED BY THE DC BOARD OF DENTISTRY WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2009. DENTISTS MUST RENEW THEIR LICENSES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REGISTRATIONS. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ABOUT RENEWING YOUR LICENSE:**

**WWW.HPLA.DOH.DC.GOV**

## Upcoming Board Meetings

THIRD WEDNESDAY  
OF THE MONTH

at 717 14th St., NW, 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

*Open Session is at 11:00 a.m.*

## Verification of Licensure

Licensing authorities and some health facilities often require a letter of verification of the licenses you currently hold or have held in the past. These letters of verification are sometimes called "letters of good standing," even though your DC license may have expired.

If the jurisdiction or institution to which you wish the letter sent gave you a form, simply forward the form, with a check or money order payable to "DC Treasurer" in the amount of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) to:

Licensure Verification for  
DC Board of Dentistry  
Suite 600  
717 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

On the form, be sure to include your name and the address where the form is to be sent.

If the jurisdiction or institution to which you wish the letter sent did not give you a form, send the payment referenced above and a short note requesting a letter of verification. The note should include your name and the name and address of where you want the letter of verification sent.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REGISTRATION NUMBER

The Board of Dentistry would like to remind all practitioners that you must have both a Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration number and a District of Columbia controlled substance registration number (DC CSR) in order to legally prescribe controlled substances in the District of Columbia.

Pharmacies are prohibited from accepting prescriptions for controlled substances without a DC controlled substance registration number on the prescriptions. **Controlled substance registration numbers expire simultaneously with your dental license** and can be renewed as part of your biennial dental license renewal. This is not a new law. For more information, see 22 District of Columbia Municipal Regulations Chapter 10 and 13.

If you do not have a DC controlled substance registration number, please contact Ms. Yvonne Briscoe-Hall, Program Specialist with the Pharmaceutical Control Division, at:

**(202) 724-7338 or (202) 724-4900**

## BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND MEETING ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY



Members of the DC Board of Dentistry attended the November 2009 meeting of the DC Board of Medicine to hear a presentation featuring Charlene Kannankeril, ND. Dr. Kannankeril is a licensed, board certified Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine in Washington, DC. She is trained in both natural medicine and pharmaceutical medicine. Her therapies include clinical nutrition, herbal medicine and nutritional supplements, as well as standard medical treatments and pharmaceutical medications.

## LICENSURE RENEWAL DECEMBER 31, 2009

Your license will expire on December 31, 2009. Please visit our website for details about renewing your license. Web address:

[www.hpla.doh.dc.gov](http://www.hpla.doh.dc.gov)

## CPR CERTIFICATION & INFECTION CONTROL CEUs

Renewal applicants are required to submit a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification for health care providers ("CPR certification") and four (4) hours of infection control which are included in the twenty-five (25) hours of continuing education units ("CEUs").

## OWNERSHIP OF THE DENTAL OFFICE:

### NEW PROVISION OF THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2009

Under the Practice of Dentistry Amendment Act of 2009 to be a manager, proprietor, operator, or conductor of a business or place where dental or dental-hygiene services are performed, you are required to be a licensed dentist. This will take effect one year following the effective date of the Practice of Dentistry Amendment Act of 2009, July 2010. There are exemptions in this provision, i.e. Federal or District of Columbia government agencies, schools of dentistry, dental hygiene or dental assisting, with which you should become familiar.

## REGISTRATION OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS

The Dental Practice Act also requires the registration of dental assistants. The registration authorizes the dental assistant to assist the dentist in the performance of duties related to oral care. The supervising dentist must be present at all times in the dental office or the treatment facility and must personally diagnose the condition to be treated as well as personally authorize the procedures. Further the dentist must personally evaluate the performance of the dental assistant before the patient is dismissed. The Dental Board is working toward developing the necessary regulations for the implementation of this registration July 2010.

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

### ALL NEW APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATION

Licensed Health Professional Criminal Background Check Amendment Act of 2006  
(D.C. Law 16-222, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.22 et seq.)

Early in 2010, new applicants seeking a healthcare license, registration or certification will need to obtain a criminal background check as part of the licensure process. The new rules are set forth in Title 17 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulation Chapter 85. The cost will be fifty dollars (\$50), payable at the time the application is submitted. Applicants will need to start the process by going to the DC Metropolitan Police Department to have their fingerprints taken or, if applying from out-of-state, by obtaining a fingerprint card from HRLA and having their fingerprints taken at the local or state police agency. The criminal background check will take the FBI 48 hours to conduct. Adverse information will be reviewed by the Board of Dentistry, for those professions falling under the Board, to determine—together with all other information—whether an applicant should be licensed.

**PAID INACTIVE STATUS:** If you intend to retire your license, or if you would like to place your license on Inactive Status, you must explicitly inform the Board of your intention before the renewal date expires. If you fail to pay renewal fees on time, your license is not inactive; it is delinquent (expired). It is unlawful to practice while your license is delinquent/expired.

## Filing a Complaint with the Board

To file a complaint against a Dentist, simply write a letter that describes your complaint. The letter must be signed, and you should attach copies of any pertinent documents that you may have. The letter must also include your address, so we may contact you as necessary and notify you of any findings.

(Please note: You can print a complaint form from our website at [www.hpla.doh.dc.gov](http://www.hpla.doh.dc.gov).)

You may fax the complaint to the Board at (202) 727-8471, or mail it to one of the addresses below.

You should mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Dentistry  
Suite 600  
717 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

If your complaint alleges unlicensed activity, mail it to:

Supervisory Investigator  
Suite 1000  
717 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If you have a fee dispute with a health professional, you can seek redress through the civil courts.

## TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**CONSENT ORDER:** A voluntary agreement entered into by a board and a respondent (person disciplined) in lieu of hearing for violation of the HORA (District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act). A Consent Order may or may not be reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCIPLINE (OR DENY):** A document requested by a board and prepared by the Office of the Attorney General which places a licensee on notice that he or she is being charged with violating one or more of the health profession laws as outlined in Title 3 Chapter 12 of the D.C. Code. It may also indicate violation of District regulations as found in Title 17 of the District Register, and/or federal law. It will give a summary of the facts which serve as the basis for the violations. The document also contains information about how to request a hearing. The disciplinary action (if any) from a "Notice" is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

**SUMMARY SUSPENSION:** A document requested by the Administrator of the Health Regulations Licensing Administration (not a Board) that is prepared by the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of the document is to immediately terminate the right of a person to practice a health profession because the Administrator believes that the person poses an imminent danger, because of his or her misconduct, to the health and safety of the residents of the District of Columbia or its visitors and guests. The "Suspension" informs the person that he or she must request a hearing within 72 hours and is entitled to a hearing within 72 hours – provided that the beginning and ending period for the 72 hours does not fall on a weekend or holiday in which case it is carried over to the next business day. Failure to request a hearing within the 72 hours results in the suspension remaining in place until it is lifted by the board having jurisdiction over the licensee. A Summary Suspension is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER:** A Cease and Desist order is a document requested by the Administrator and prepared by the Office of the Attorney General. It is served on a person whom the Administrator believes may cause immediate and irreparable harm. Unlike a Summary Suspension, it is usually served on persons who are engaging in a health profession while not being licensed, registered, or certified. The person receiving the Cease and Desist must request a hearing within 10 days and is entitled to a hearing within 10 days. If the hearing isn't requested, the Cease and Desist remains in effect. If the person continues to be engaged in the activity after being served a Cease and Desist, the Administrator may ask the Office of the Attorney General to seek a criminal prosecution to enjoin the activity.

**THE NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK:** A database mandated by federal law and maintained by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of warehousing disciplinary actions taken by states against health professionals. Each licensing board is required to report to the Data Bank each and every formal disciplinary action taken against a licensee, registrant, or holder of a certification.

**RETAIN YOUR RECORDS:** If you are subpoenaed, please retain a copy of your records!

## BOARD MEMBERS AT AADE ANNUAL MEETING

DC Board of Dentistry Chairperson Robert Ray, DMD, at the 126th annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE), held in Hawaii (9/30 - 10/1/09) is joined by fellow board members (l. to r.): Sibyl Gant, RDH, BS; Lisa Slade, DDS; Pamela Brady, DDS; and Jezelle Sonnier, DDS.



## ANESTHESIA TASK FORCE



Anesthesia Task Force committee members (left to right): Dr. Richard Meltzer, Assistant Attorney General Carla Williams, Dr. Daniel Howard, Attorney Shelly Hayes, Dr. Steven Guttenberg, Dr. Andrea Bonnick, Dr. Eugene Giannini, Dr. Robert Smyth, Dr. Isaiah Morrison, and Dr. Richard Clark.

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

I want to mention some actions that may lead to board violations. The bleaching centers are an issue confronting our Board and many other boards nationally. They are becoming more prevalent in this area. Holistic dentistry is another source of complaints. If a dentist does not inform the Board of a malpractice suit or a Board violation in other jurisdiction, that is also a violation. These actions should be mentioned on your license renewal application. Get all of your required continuing

education credits.

Finally, please try to keep your patient financial disagreements from escalating to malpractice issues. Many situations are able to be resolved at the client/provider level when given the appropriate attention.

For more information about the dental or dental hygiene regulations go to the website [www.hpla.doh.dc.gov](http://www.hpla.doh.dc.gov) and then to municipal regulations.

Robert Ray, DMD  
Chairperson  
DC Board of Dentistry

### ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL LICENSEES

Please be aware that § 466(a)(13) of the Social Security Act and D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.05(b) require that a Social Security number be placed on an application at the time a person applies for a license. A Tax ID number (beginning with a "9" and having a "7" as the 4th digit) issued by the Internal Revenue Service is not the same as a Social Security number that is issued by the Social Security Administration. If you do not have a Social Security number at the time of applying for a license you must submit a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, stating that you do not have a Social Security number but have applied for one. If you submitted a Tax ID number to the Board and subsequently obtained a Social Security number but never informed the Board that you obtained a Social Security number—or you have never had a Social Security number—you are required to obtain a Social Security number and/or update your application with the number.

## ANESTHESIA TASK FORCE

Dr. Steven Guttenberg  
Chairman of Committee  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Daniel Howard, Jr.  
Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Richard Clark  
Physician Anesthesiologist

Dr. Isaiah Morrison  
Pediatric Dentist

Attorney Shelly Hayes  
Consumer Member

Dr. Robert Smyth  
Endodontist  
Practices Sedation Dentistry

Dr. Andrea Bonnick  
Oral Surgeon  
Howard University

Dr. Richard Meltzer  
General Dentist  
Practices Sedation Dentistry

Dr. Eugene Giannini  
General Dentist

Many thanks to the members  
of the committee!



Jezelle Sonnier, DDS

## MEET BOARD OF DENTISTRY MEMBER JEZELLE SONNIER, DDS

*"I have been surprised by the number of complaints that are rooted in financial misunderstandings between patients and their dentists. It is not the Board's responsibility to resolve financial disputes, however, these complaints are sometimes presented as standard of care issues."*

Jezelle A. Sonnier, DDS, is originally from Louisiana, and a graduate of Louisiana State University. Dr. Sonnier earned a Doctorate of Dentistry from the Howard University College of Dentistry, and a Certificate in Advanced Education in Dentistry from the Howard University College of Dentistry Residency Program.

A member of the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners, Dr. Sonnier is also a member of the American Dental Association, the District of Columbia Dental Association, the National Dental Association, and the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society. She is also a member of Delta Phi Sigma Dental Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

### **When were you appointed to serve on the Board of Dentistry?**

I was appointed to the DC Board of Dentistry in March 2008 by Mayor Adrian Fenty.

### **Why and how did you initially become involved with the Board? What sparked your interest in serving as a Board member?**

I have always had an interest in the laws and regulations which govern the practice of dentistry in the District. Being a board member allows me to participate in the establishment and review of the regulations which ensure the safe practice of dentistry.

When I was asked by the Mayor to consider a Board appointment I considered it an opportunity to make a contribution to the dental community by enforcing those safeguards that are in place to protect those who receive dental services in the District.

### **Is there any aspect of your service as a Board member thus far that has surprised you (or has the experience been what you expected it to be)?**

I have been surprised by how much responsibility the board has.

The primary responsibility of the Board is to protect the public. In this mandate there

are many underlying issues which must be considered in the decisions the Board makes. I have also been surprised by the number of complaints that are rooted in financial misunderstandings between patients and their dentists. It is not the Board's responsibility to resolve financial disputes, however these complaints are sometimes presented as standard of care issues.

### **What challenges lay ahead for the Board?**

One of the challenges will be to develop new legislation which will regulate the many new technologies and procedures arising in the practice of dentistry while not restricting progress.

### **Is there anything about the District of Columbia or the DC population that poses a unique challenge to your profession?**

The District of Columbia is unique because although it operates as a state, it does not have the privileges of statehood. We, as dentists, practice in a jurisdiction which serves a population that pays federal taxes but has no voting

representation in the House or the Senate.

### **What future goals do you have as a Board member?**

My goal is to uphold the standards of care expected by the community we serve.

### **What knowledge or skills have you developed as a Board member that you had not developed before?**

Being a Board member I have had the opportunity to learn more about the many issues that confront the practice of dentistry. I have also been exposed to other state boards and their best practices.

### **What would you tell someone who is thinking about applying to serve on your board?**

I would tell anyone who lives and practices in the District who is interested in being a Board member that it can be a very enlightening and rewarding experience. It comes with a price of time commitment and reward of better understanding of the complex environment in which we practice dentistry in DC.

## TO APPLY FOR A BOARD APPOINTMENT...

To apply for a Board appointment, you must obtain and complete the [Application for Mayoral Appointment to a Board or Commission](#) and submit it to the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC), along with an updated resume or biography. You may access Boards and Commission's website for an application at: <http://obc.dc.gov/obc/cwp/view,a,3,q,520782.asp>. Many boards have similar names, so be sure to state the full and correct name of your board preference. In order to be considered for an appointment, all candidates must complete the [Application for Mayoral Appointment to a Board or Commission](#) and must include:

- Boards or Commissions in which you are interested
- Name, address, telephone number(s), ward and business info
- Education and qualifications
- Community activities/organizational affiliations
- Declarations

Please send the information to the following address or by email.  
Office of Boards and Commissions  
Executive Office of the Mayor  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 302  
Washington, DC 20004

OBC Phone: (202) 727-1372; Fax: (202) 727-2359; Website: <http://obc.dc.gov/obc/cwp/view,a,3,q,520782.asp>

## BOARD ORDERS

January 2009 – October 2009

### Summarily Suspended

**Beck, Mark** (D.D.S.) (1/30/09) The dentist's license was summarily suspended effective 1/30/09 as a result of violating a final order of the Board of Dentistry.

**Breslerman, Mark J.** (D.D.S.) (2/2/09) The dentist's license was summarily suspended as a result of multiple instances of providing substandard care.

**Breslerman, Mark J.** (D.D.S.) (3/11/09) The summary suspension of the dentist's license was affirmed by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

### Suspended

**Beck, Mark** (D.D.S.) (8/3/09) The dentist's license remained suspended for violating a final order of the Board of Dentistry by failing to enroll in an addiction/impairment treatment program acceptable to the Board within 10 days of beginning practice or employment in the District of Columbia, failing to ensure that the terms of a March 28, 2008 consent order he entered into with the Board of Dentistry were met, and for filing a letter with the Board as proof of completion of required continuing education courses that he knew or should have known was false or misleading.

### Probation

**Beck, Mark** (D.D.S.) (8/19/09) The dentist's license was restored effective August 19, 2009 under the status of PROBATION.

### Reprimand /Fine

**Gaznavi, Pourang** (D.D.S.) (9/16/09) By consent order, the dentist was reprimanded and ordered to pay a fine in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) as a result of being disciplined by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners and failing to disclose the discipline by the Maryland Board on her District of Columbia renewal application.

## WHEN YOU MOVE (OR CHANGE YOUR NAME)

All name and address changes must be submitted in writing to our office **within 30 days of the change**. Please include your name, address, Social Security number, and license number if you know it. If you have a name change, you must also enclose a copy of your certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change. Fax your request to (202) 727-8471 or mail your name and address change to: DC Board of Dentistry, Processing Department, Address/Name Change, 717 14th Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005

To use HRLA's website to check and verify a license, go to: [www.hpla.doh.dc.gov](http://www.hpla.doh.dc.gov)

## LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR DENTISTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District of Columbia Department of Health has a loan repayment program for health care professionals. The program's main goal is to aid in the recruitment and retention of health care professionals to provide services to medically underserved residents. To download a Loan Repayment Program application, go online at: <http://doh.dc.gov/doh/cwp/view,a,1374,q,602423.asp> or obtain an application by contacting:

PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM  
Health Professional Loan Repayment Program  
825 North Capitol Street, NE, Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 442-9168; FAX: (202) 535-1039

- You must be a United States Citizen
- Dentists must have completed post-graduate training in general or pediatric dentistry
- Applicants must be licensed or eligible to practice in DC
- Have no other obligation for health professional service to the federal or state government, unless the obligation will be completely satisfied prior to the beginning of service under the Program.

D.C. BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
717 14th Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005



Government of the District of Columbia  
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor



Health Professional  
Licensing Administration

**Address**

DC Board of Dentistry  
717 14th Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005

**Phone**

(202) 724-8872

**Fax**

(202) 727-8471

**Webpage**

[www.hpla.doh.dc.gov](http://www.hpla.doh.dc.gov)

**DC Government website**

[www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov)

**Current Members  
of The District of Columbia  
Board of Dentistry**

Robert G. Ray, DMD,  
Chairperson

Pamela K. Brady, DDS

Sibyl L. Gant, RDH, BS

Daniel Howard, Jr., DDS

Annie G. Ponds, Consumer Member

Lisa H. Slade, DDS

Jezelle Sonnier, DDS

Director, Department of Health  
Pierre N.D. Vigilance, MD, MPH

**Board Staff**

**Executive Director**

Bonnie Rampersaud  
Phone: (202) 724-7332  
Email: [bonnie.rampersaud@dc.gov](mailto:bonnie.rampersaud@dc.gov)

**Health Licensing Specialist**

Thomasine Pointer  
Phone: (202) 724-8872  
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**Assistant Attorney General**

Tonia Bair

**Investigator**

Rebecca Odrick

**Newsletter Editor/Layout**

Nancy Kofie

To use HRLA's website to check and verify a license, go to: [www.hpla.doh.dc.gov](http://www.hpla.doh.dc.gov)