



D.C. Board of Dentistry

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YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

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

Board of Dentistry
Processing Department
Address/Name Change
899 North Capitol St. NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



Fall 2011

RENEWAL ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to your renewal issue of the District of Columbia Board of Dentistry newsletter. This newsletter is published yearly, and this will be our primary means of communication with all DC licensed Dentists and Dental Hygienists.

Effective September 2011, the Board has started distributing its newsletter by email. It is essential that you update your email address with the Board to ensure that you are receiving your newsletters and all other important notifications regarding regulatory updates and changes. You may submit your updated email address to Thomasine.Pointer@dc.gov. You can also access your Board's newsletters on our website at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov and, once on the site, click on Board of Dentistry, and then newsletters.

Yes, it's renewal time

again, so please begin now to gather your continuing education credit (CE) certificates. Each year the Board audits a number of dentists and hygienists to determine if the credits listed on the license renewal application are accurately reflected in the credits on hand. The Board continues to address issues with a number of dentists and hygienists who cannot accurately validate their credits for a number of reasons. Please note that reporting on the license renewal that you have accumulated the required credits but later being unable to verify them in an audit can result in disciplinary action. Please ensure that you have, or will have accrued, by the end of the year, the necessary credits. Also, in accordance with the regulations for dentists, you are required to have a current CPR certification



Daniel N. Howard, Jr., DDS

and four (4) of your 25 CE hours must be in infection control. Additionally, no more than eight (8) CE hours can be online courses. Dental hygienists are responsible for having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved CE credit, a current CPR certification and two (2) hours of infection control training, with no more than eight (8) hours online.

(continued on page 2)

LICENSURE RENEWAL: ALL LICENSES ISSUED BY THE DC BOARD OF DENTISTRY WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2011. DENTISTS MUST RENEW THEIR LICENSES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REGISTRATIONS. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ABOUT RENEWING YOUR LICENSE:

WWW.HPLA.DOH.DC.GOV

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR (continued)

There is another important requirement that will impact the renewal process for the very first time this year. It is the need for each dentist and dental hygienist, and all other health professionals, to undergo a criminal background check (CBC). A delineation of the CBC process can be found in this newsletter (please see pages 4 and 7). Please read and follow these instructions. Should you have any questions, call the Board's staff listed on the back of the newsletter.

In this issue, there are interviews with two of our Board members, Dr. Robert J. Caldwell and Dr. Bernard K. McDermott and I know that you will want to read about their experiences on the Board. The Board's retreat is also featured in this edition. If you have recommendations for articles or topics you would like for us to address, let us hear from you.

The Board meets the third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am in the Board's conference room at 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 200. The public and students are invited to attend the **Open Session at 10:30 am**. We welcome your input and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting **Wednesday, October 19, 2011**.

— Daniel N. Howard, Jr., DDS
Chairperson
DC Board of Dentistry

APPLY TO SERVE ON THE BOARD

If you are a resident of the District of Columbia, in practice for 3 years or more and in good standing with the Board, you may apply to serve on the Board of Dentistry. For full instructions on how to apply, please contact the Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC):

OBC Website: www.obc.dc.gov

Phone: (202) 727-1372

Fax: (202) 727-2359

Address: Office of Boards and Commissions
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 302
Washington, DC 20004

EXPEDITE YOUR LICENSE

Make sure to have your entire application filled out and signed. Provide official court documents of final case dispositions for any felonies or misdemeanors that you incurred (i.e., a defendant, in any state or country). Malpractice case dispositions should include a case number, jurisdiction, year, all the defendant names, all plaintiff names, a brief summary of the case, and final disposition, such as judgment dollar amount, dismissed with or without prejudice, or settlement dollar amount—this information must be sent with your application.

THE BOARD NEEDS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Send us your email address so that we will be able to deliver the newsletter electronically. Please send an email to thomasine.pointer@dc.gov. Please provide your full name and license type. Place "DENTISTRY NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

WHEN YOU MOVE (OR CHANGE YOUR NAME)

Licensees sometimes forget to inform the Board of Dentistry when they move or change names. If we do not have your current address, you may not receive your renewal mailing because we may send it to your former address. 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) 724-8677, or mail your name and/or address change to:

DC Board of Dentistry
Processing Department
Address/Name Change
899 N. Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

BOARD MEMBERS AT NERB



Several Board Members attended the 2011 North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners (NERB) meeting. Left to right: Board members Robert J. Caldwell, DDS; Jezelle A. Sonnier, DDS; Renee A. McCoy-Collins, DDS; Sibyl L. Gant, RDH, BS; and Board Chair Daniel N. Howard, Jr., DDS.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REGISTRATION NUMBER

Practitioners 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. 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.** For more information, see 22 District of Columbia Municipal Regulations chapters 10 and 13. If you do not have a DC controlled substance registration number, please contact the Pharmaceutical Control Division, at (202) 442-5877.

REGISTRATION OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS

The Dental Practice Act requires the registration of dental assistants. The registration authorizes the dental assistant to assist the dentist in the performance of some duties related to oral care. This legislation requires the supervising dentist to be present at all times in the dental office or the treatment facility and to 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.

CPR CERTIFICATION & INFECTION CONTROL CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

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 25 hours of continuing education. Dental hygiene licensees are required to have a current (CPR certification) and two (2) hours of infection control which are included the overall fifteen (15) continuing education hours.

PAID INACTIVE STATUS: If you intend to retire your license, or if you would like to place your license on Inactive Status, you must complete the paper renewal application indicating your decision to opt for Paid Inactive status before the 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.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of every Dentist and Dental Hygienist to read and be familiar with all regulations relevant to his/her practice. Please take a moment to locate your regulations online, on the DC Department of Health website, at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov. Click on "DC Municipal Regulations" then select:

- Dental Hygiene
- Dentistry, or
- Dental Assistants

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
899 N. Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

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.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

NEW CBC FINGERPRINTING SERVICE

NOW AVAILABLE

All licensees in the District of Columbia are required to undergo a Criminal Background Check (CBC) during the licensure process. In addition to Criminal Background Check (CBC) services provided by the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, health professionals applying for licensure or renewing their license in the District can now also receive live scan Criminal Background Check services with **L-1 Enrollment Services.**

For more information,
please visit our website:
www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

BY NOW, YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR POSTCARD RENEWAL NOTICE (SEE BELOW) INSTRUCTING YOU TO GO ONLINE TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE.

★ ★ ★ GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 DC Board of Dentistry

DENTAL RENEWAL BEGINS ON OCTOBER 01, 2011
 DENTAL LICENSES EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2011

STATE & FBI CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (CBC) REQUIRED FOR THIS LICENSURE RENEWAL:

Go to www.hpla.doh.dc.gov to renew your license and select CBC by DC MPD, or CBC in another jurisdiction.

CBC BY DC METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) 300 INDIANA AVENUE, N.W.:

•When renewing your license online through the HPLA website select to complete your CBC through the DC MPD. After answering all renewal questions, you will be prompted to a receipt page with a link to the CBC APPOINTMENT REQUEST FORM where you will request three dates to have your Live-Scan Fingerprinting done by DC MPD. The renewal fee is \$254.00, and the CBC fee is \$50.00 (total \$304.00). You will be emailed a confirmation of your appointment date. **Once confirmation of your scan is emailed to us by DC MPD your license will be renewed.**

CBC IN JURISDICTION OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

You will need two (2) fingerprint cards, one for the Federal investigation and the other for a local investigation.

- Renew your license and select CBC in another jurisdiction. The renewal fee is \$254.00.
- Go to your local law enforcement agency and request a State Police Clearance.
- Send state clearance results by email, fax or mail to HPLA (see below); once received, your license will be renewed.
- Request also to be Fingerprinted on a FBI Applicant Fingerprint card (FD-258). In the "Reason Fingerprinted" block of the FD-258, write in "License, HPLA/CBC Unit; 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002."
- Mail the Fingerprint card (FD-258) to the FBI along with a money order or cashier's check for \$18.00 made payable to the Treasury of the US to: FBI CJIS Division – Record Request; 1000 Custer Hollow Road; Clarksburg, WV 26306
- The FBI will mail the results of the background check to you. Submit the results of your CBC to HPLA/CBC Unit (see address below).

If we receive a positive CBC result from DC, State or FBI CBC, you will be asked to provide court papers.

PLEASE REMEMBER (25) HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR DENTAL LICENSES TO BE RENEWED. WHICH MUST INCLUDE CURRENT CPR CERTIFICATION AND (4) HOURS OF INFECTION CONTROL. NOT MORE THAN (8) APPROVED INTERNET CEU WILL BE ACCEPTED.

DOH HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING ADMINISTRATION, DC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

HPLA/CBC Unit, 899 North Capitol Street, NE; 1st Floor, Washington, DC 20002

General Renewal Questions: 1-877-672-2174 * CBC Fax: 202-478-1387

Computer/IT Questions: 202-724-8930/ 202-741-7689 * HPLA Phone: 1-877-672-2174

Website: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov * Email: doh.cbcd@dc.gov

FBI website: http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/background_checks

★ ★ ★ GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 DC Board of Dentistry

DENTAL HYGIENE RENEWAL BEGINS ON OCTOBER 01, 2011
 DENTAL HYGIENE LICENSES EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2011

STATE & FBI CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (CBC) REQUIRED FOR THIS LICENSURE RENEWAL:

Go to www.hpla.doh.dc.gov to renew your license and select CBC by DC MPD, or CBC in another jurisdiction.

CBC BY DC METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) 300 INDIANA AVENUE, N.W.:

•When renewing your license online through the HPLA website select to complete your CBC through the DC MPD. After answering all renewal questions, you will be prompted to a receipt page with a link to the CBC APPOINTMENT REQUEST FORM where you will request three dates to have your Live-Scan Fingerprinting done by DC MPD. The renewal fee is \$136.00, and the CBC fee is \$50.00 (total \$186.00). You will be emailed a confirmation of your appointment date. **Once confirmation of your scan is emailed to us by DC MPD your license will be renewed.**

CBC IN JURISDICTION OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

You will need two (2) fingerprint cards, one for the Federal investigation and the other for a local investigation.

- Renew your license and select CBC in another jurisdiction. The renewal fee is \$136.00.
- Go to your local law enforcement agency and request a State Police Clearance.
- Send state clearance results by email, fax or mail to HPLA (see below); once received, your license will be renewed.
- Request also to be Fingerprinted on a FBI Applicant Fingerprint card (FD-258). In the "Reason Fingerprinted" block of the FD-258, write in "License, HPLA/CBC Unit; 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002."
- Mail the Fingerprint card (FD-258) to the FBI along with a money order or cashier's check for \$18.00 made payable to the Treasury of the US to: FBI CJIS Division – Record Request; 1000 Custer Hollow Road; Clarksburg, WV 26306
- The FBI will mail the results of the background check to you. Submit the results of your CBC to HPLA/CBC Unit (see address below).

If we receive a positive CBC result from DC, State or FBI CBC, you will be asked to provide court papers.

PLEASE REMEMBER (15) HOURS OF APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE CURRENT CPR CERTIFICATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AT THE BASIC LEVEL AND TWO (2) HOURS OF INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING, OBTAINED WITHIN THE TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD PRECEDING THE DATE THE LICENSE EXPIRES. NOT MORE THAN (8) APPROVED INTERNET CEU WILL BE ACCEPTED.

DOH HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING ADMINISTRATION, DC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

HPLA/CBC Unit, 899 North Capitol Street, NE; 1st Floor, Washington, DC 20002

General Renewal Questions: 1-877-672-2174 * CBC Fax: 202-478-1387 * HPLA Phone: 1-877-672-2174

Computer/IT Questions: 202-724-8930/ 202-741-7689 * Website: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov * Email: doh.cbcd@dc.gov

FBI website: http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks/background_checks

ARE YOU READY FOR THE CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDIT?

District of Columbia Dentists and Dental Hygienists will soon be renewing their licenses, which must be renewed on or before December 31, 2011 or else they will expire. At the conclusion of the renewal period, the Board will conduct a random audit to ensure compliance with the continuing education requirements. **If you are selected in the audit, you will be notified by letter and provided instructions for submitting your materials.**

Please be sure to submit all requested materials within thirty (30) days as requested and to keep a copy of your records in case your original submission is lost or misdirected. **DO NOT send your original certificates to the Board; keep these for your files.** Please take note that the random selections are generated by computer. This means that an individual can be selected in back-to-back consecutive audits. If you are selected, you must submit proof of completion of the required continuing education courses, whether or not you were selected in a previous audit.

DC MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS — DENTISTRY

4208 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

4208.1 The Board may grant continuing education credit for whole hours only, with a minimum of fifty (50) minutes constituting one (1) credit hour.

4208.2 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses, each semester hour of credit shall constitute fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour of credit shall constitute ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.

4208.3 The Board may grant a maximum of thirteen (13) continuing education credits per year to an applicant who attends a full time post-graduate education program.

4208.4 The Board may grant credit to an applicant who serves as an instructor or speaker at an acceptable program for both preparation and presentation time, subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted for preparation time is twice the amount of the associated presentation time;
- (b) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted pursuant to this subsection is fifty percent (50%) of an applicant's continuing education requirement; and
- (c) The presentation shall have been completed during the period for which credit is claimed.

4208.5 The Board may grant an applicant who is an author or editor of a published book twenty-five (25) continuing education credits, if the book has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed, and the applicant submits proof of this fact in the application.

4208.6 The Board may grant an applicant who is an author of a published original paper five (5) continuing education credits, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 4208.5.

4208.7 The Board may grant an applicant who is the sole author of a published book review, review paper, or abstract, two (2) continuing education credits, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 4208.5.

DC MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS — DENTAL HYGIENE

4306 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

4306.1 Except as provided in § 4306.2, this section applies to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring December 31, 2009.

4306.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination or endorsement and shall not apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

4306.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board in accordance with § 4307.

4306.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 4306.7 of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit, which shall include current CPR certification for healthcare

providers at the basic level and two (2) hours of infection control training, obtained within the two (2) year period preceding the date the license expires.

4306.5 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (2001) who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 4306.7 of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit, which shall include current CPR certification for healthcare providers at the basic level and two (2) hours of infection control training, obtained within the two (2) year period preceding the date of the application for reactivation of that applicant's license and an additional eight (8) hours of approved continuing education credit for each additional year that the applicant was in inactive status beginning with the third year.

4306.6 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof pursuant to

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LICENSURE RENEWAL: CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Where can I get my Criminal Background Check done?

The Criminal Background Check can be scheduled and processed through the HPLA/DC Metropolitan Police (MPD) or any law enforcement agency in any state.

Applicants Completing CBC through HPLA/DC MPD

1. Submit the following information in person to the HPLA Customer Service Center or by mail (address at bottom of page):
 - a. Completed application and application fee payable to the DC Treasurer.
 - b. \$50.00 fee payable to the DC Treasurer (check or money order only) to conduct a criminal background check through the DC MPD (This is not included in licensure fee, and may be added to payment of application/renewal fee).
 - c. Submit a Live-Scan Fingerprint Appointment Request Form to schedule an appointment with the DC MPD. Go to <http://hpla.doh.dc.gov/hpla/cwp/view,a,1194,q,501826.asp> to download the Live-Scan Fingerprint Appointment Request Form, or provide verification of fingerprinting completed by another jurisdiction.
 - d. Once evidence of a completed CBC scan is received, the renewal license will be issued pending completed CBC results from DC MPD.

DC Fingerprinting Location

DC METROPOLITAN POLICE

300 Indiana Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Metro: Red Line - Judiciary Square

Applicants Completing CBC Outside of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Area

1. To complete the CBC, go to any law enforcement agency and:
 - a. Ask for a State Police Clearance and to be fingerprinted on an FBI Applicant Fingerprint card (FD-258).
 - b. FBI INFO: For more information regarding the criminal background check from the FBI, visit the FBI website at: http://www.fbi.gov/above-us/cjis/background-checks/background_checks
2. You must then mail the Fingerprint card (FD-258) to the FBI. In the "Reason Fingerprinted" block of the card, write in "License or certification, HRLA – Board of Dentistry, Department of Health, 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002."
3. Applicants' renewal license will be issued once evidence of a CBC scan is received.
4. The FBI will mail the results of the background check to you the applicant.
5. Once the results from the FBI are received, THEY SHOULD NOT BE OPENED BY THE APPLICANT. The FBI CBC results must be mailed in its sealed envelope to our CBC Unit at the address below.
6. The applicant is responsible for making sure that the CBC results are delivered to the Criminal Background Check Unit at the address below.

HPLA/BOARD OF DENTISTRY

899 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

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§ 4306.7 of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit, which shall include current CPR certification for healthcare providers at the basic level and two (2) hours of infection control training, obtained within the two (2) year period preceding the date of the application for reinstatement of the applicant's license and an additional eight (8) hours of approved continuing education credit for each additional year that the license was expired beginning with the third year.

4306.7 An applicant under this section shall prove

completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:

- (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
- (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
- (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
- (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
- (e) Verification by the sponsor of completion, by signature or stamp.



Robert J. Caldwell, DDS

MEET BOARD OF DENTISTRY MEMBER ROBERT J. CALDWELL, DDS

“Proper and effective COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY.

Take the necessary time to explain treatment and be organized in your treatment planning. Most misunderstandings can be avoided by following this one principle. Also, treat within your skill level—it’s OK to refer.”

When were you appointed to serve on the Board?

I was appointed to the Board of Dentistry in December 2009.

Why and how did you first get involved with the Board?

What sparked your interest in serving as a Board member?

I was first introduced to the Board as an observer attending the monthly Board meetings. Having been involved in various leadership roles in organized Dentistry for many years, I became interested in learning about the processes involving licensure and the regulations as outlined by the Dental Practice Act. My focus was to learn about how ideas were developed and implemented.

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)?

My experience on the Board has been a very positive one.

I have been an active participant in the development of new regulations and the

upgrading of some that already exist. The practice of Dentistry is changing and we as a Board must remain vigilant and up to date. I am also impressed by the streamlined process and efficiency of how applications for licensure are reviewed and processed.

What unique perspective do you bring to the Board?

One of the things that I treasure most is Integrity. I try to make decisions based on the factual information presented and conduct all processes in a fair and equitable manner. My years of experience in organized dentistry have provided a solid foundation for my service as a member of the Board of Dentistry.

What Board-related issues interest you most?

I am very interested in making sure that the Board remains current with all that is ever changing in the profession and also that we remain true to our service of protecting the public. We are constantly working to ensure that the Board of Dentistry here in our

profession is working diligently for our public and our profession.

What do you foresee as future challenges for the Board?

There are several challenges that lie ahead for the Board, some of which involve an increase in applications for licensure by endorsement, future changes involving dental licensing exams, practice ownership issues, and maintaining an ethical practice among our licensees.

What future goals do you have as a Board member?

My future goals as a Board member are to continue to serve with integrity and fairness and to make a difference during my tenure.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about applying to serve on the Board?

I would tell anyone who is considering serving on any Board that it is first and foremost SERVICE.

We are public servants and the public has placed their trust in us.

One should feel privileged to represent the profession in this manner and be able to devote the necessary time to serve and uphold the tenets and ethics of our privileged profession.

Any message you would like to convey to licensees?

Proper and effective **COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY**. Take the necessary time to explain treatment and be organized in your treatment planning. Most misunderstandings can be avoided by following this one principle.

Also, treat within your skill level—it’s OK to refer.

Treat patients as people and in the same manner as you would treat a family member and your career as a dental practitioner should be a fruitful one.



Bernard K. McDermott, DDS

MEET BOARD OF DENTISTRY MEMBER BERNARD K. MCDERMOTT, DDS

"Many of the complaints we receive from patients seem to have been caused by a failure in communication between the dental professional and the patient... We should all better explain treatment options and predicted outcomes, while constantly checking in on the patient's level of true understanding."

When were you appointed to serve on the Board?

I was appointed to the Board of Dentistry in July 2010.

Why and how did you get involved? What sparked your interest?

I served a term on the DC Board in the mid-eighties.

I had heard that the Board is much more efficient now. I wanted to see for myself. Also, I was told that the DC residency requirement limited the pool of potential Board members. I felt a duty to serve again.

What has surprised you?

The Board is much more efficient in processing licensure applications, as well as complaints, than in the 1980s. Board members are very focused on the ethical practice of dentistry here in DC. They want to uphold DC laws, and the Practice Act, while treating dental professionals and patients with fairness and respect.

What unique perspective do you bring to the Board?

I am a native Washingtonian, and maintained a private practice of dentistry for 35 years here in Washington, DC. As I mentioned, I previously served on the DC Board of Dentistry, and was an Examiner and Chief Examiner for NERB for over ten years. I served three years in the U.S. Army, including one year as a dentist in Viet Nam in 1968. I am a Past-President of the DC Dental Society, and I served on numerous American Dental Association councils, as well as four years on their Board of Trustees.

What Board issues interest you most?

I am very interested in the quick processing of licensure applications for dental professionals. The Board is constantly trying to improve the turn-around time for those who apply. I believe practicing dentistry is a privilege, and is based on the public's trust. Practitioners who violate that public trust, or violate the DC

Dental Practice Act, damage the public's trust. One of our roles is to attempt to adjudicate complaints against practitioners in a fair and ethical manner, while ruling out any nuisance complaints.

What would you tell someone thinking of serving on the Board?

If you do not serve, who will? Dental professionals enjoy a very high public image. While I believe this is very much deserved, we must give credit to the present and past boards with sanctioning those whose lack of ethical actions or violations of the Practice Act possibly caused damage to the public's trust of the dental profession.

Most of us have had very successful careers in dentistry in DC and have been treated fairly by the Dental Board. This has been made possible by all those present and past members who have contributed their time and energy to serve on this very important Board. So again, if not you, who will serve and uphold dentistry's

ethical image? If you are a DC resident, I urge you to give back and consider serving on the DC Dental Board.

Any messages you would like to convey to licensees?

Many of the complaints we receive from patients seem to have been caused by a failure in communication between the dental professional and the patient. Patients are often stressed, and can easily be overwhelmed. We should all better explain treatment options and predicted outcomes, while constantly checking in on the patient's level of true understanding.

The "Golden Rule" is still very smart advice: **"Treat patients the way you would want to be treated!"** And, if a problem arises, try very hard to settle it fairly between you and your patient, before the Board is required to step in.

BOARD OF DENTISTRY RETREAT

The Board of Dentistry held a retreat in 2010 to discuss the core functions of the Board, licensure issues, enforcement and outreach. Guided by facilitator Geetha Ravindra, new and long-standing Board members had the opportunity to look at the Board's mission and engage in strategic planning.

One important issue discussed was how the Board can maximize its members' contributions of time by developing subcommittees—breaking Board tasks into committee responsibilities.

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA) Senior Deputy Director Dr. Feseha Woldu provided the group with an overview of the

administration's functions and noted that, in the future, dentists will be required to maintain online profiles on the HRLA website, as currently done by District physicians.

Dr. Woldu assured Board members that HRLA staff are dedicated to providing the Board with first-class support.

Board members requested statistics on who is practicing in the District, who is licensed but not practicing, and those dentists who are "frequent flyers"—dentists for whom the

TOPICS REVIEWED:

- Infection control
- Sedation anesthesia
- Dental assistants
- Dental technicians
- Dental laboratories
- Dental hygiene regs
- Dental regulations
- Teaching licenses
- Impairment cases
- Enforcement actions
- New developments in Dentistry (Holistic Dentistry, Spa Dentistry)
- Increasing efficiency in attaining closure for complaints
- Peer review
- Outreach: newsletter, brochures, surveys, workshops/seminars

Board has received an unusually high number of complaints. Also discussed was the DC Council's request concerning dentistry workforce trends.

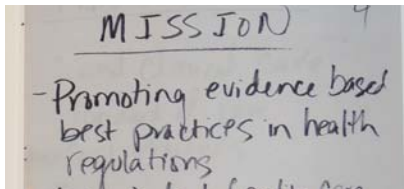
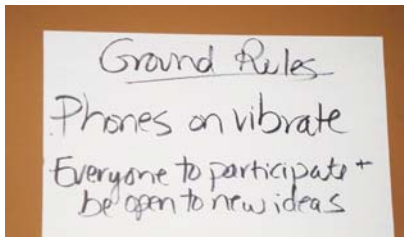


THE BOARD WELCOMES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND OPEN SESSION!





Standing (l. to r.): Retreat facilitator Geetha Ravindra, Board Executive Director Bonnie Rampersaud, Bernard K. McDermott, Chair Daniel N. Howard, Jr., Jezelle A. Sommer, and Sibyl L. Gant. Seated (l. to r.): Renee A. McCoy-Collins, Robert J. Caldwell, HPLA Attorney Tonia Bair, and former Board of Dentistry Chair Robert G. Ray. (Not pictured above is Consumer Member Annie G. Ponds, who appears in photo on this page below at far right.



DC BOARDS OF ALLIED & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN COLLABORATION
WITH HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S AETC-NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL CENTER

Getting to Zero: World AIDS Day 2011 Conference

On December 1, 2011, World AIDS Day, the DC Boards of Allied and Behavioral Health sponsored a continuing education program focusing on HIV/AIDS in the District. The program, held at St. Elizabeths Hospital, was moderated by Dr. Barbara Roberts, Chair of the DC Board of Psychology, and Dr. Goulda Downer, Chair of the DC Board of Dietetics and Nutrition.



Ms. Beatriz Otero, District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services.



Dr. Mohammad N. Akhter, Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health.



Dr. Bernard S. Arons, Director of Medical Affairs at Saint Elizabeths Hospital welcomes attendees.



Moderator Dr. Goulda Downer, Principal Investigator/Assistant Professor, AETC National Multicultural Center, Howard University College of Medicine.



Moderator Dr. Barbara T. Roberts, Chair of the DC Board of Psychology, Clinical and Consulting Psychologist, Roberts and Associates.



Ms. Bonnie Rampersaud, Executive Director of the DC Boards of Allied and Behavioral Health.



Addressing the topic of Hepatitis co-infection with HIV were speakers Corinna Dan, RN, MPH, Viral Hepatitis Policy Advisor, Office of HIV/AIDS Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and Chris Taylor (right), Associate Director of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD).



Dr. Andrew Forsyth, Senior Science Advisor, Office of HIV/AIDS Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, speaks about the national HIV/AIDS strategy.



Addressing the topic of HIV Pharmacology: Dr. Keith Crawford, Chief of Public Health Research of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program.

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HARNESS THE POWER OF THIS CITY

"We are the capital of the wealthiest country in the world, yet we are facing problems like those of developing countries," according to **BEATRIZ OTERO**, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services. "The two cities of the District need to come together. We must harness the power of this city. It is essential that we coordinate our efforts," Ms. Otero said. "This administration has made a significant effort to make testing a part of everybody's life. I was tested in June—it is a painless process." She noted that last year the District administered 122,000 HIV tests. "People like you make this possible," she told participants. HIV testing should be a part of the annual physical. She shared information about the District's Ask For The Test campaign, which will be promoted on the radio and at events. She told about a concert planned at the 9:30 Club: "Your admission ticket is an HIV test."

YOUR ROLE IS IMPORTANT

"The role of the allied and behavioral health professional is fundamental" in the fight against the HIV virus, according to DC Department of Health (DOH) Director **MOHAMMAD N. AKHTER, MD, MPH**. "Ask your clients if they would like to be tested, in normal conversation." In the District, we have a 3-to-3.2% HIV rate, he told attendees, also noting that medication can lower the viral load of an HIV positive individual so that the patient is less likely to spread the disease. In the District, residents can gain access to treatment on demand through DOH, regardless of their ability to pay or their immigration status. "World AIDS Day is an occasion to honor the memory of those lost, to celebrate the successes and to chart the future," Dr. Akhter said. He also acknowledged the "compassionate leadership" of Mayor Vincent Gray on this issue.

HIV IS NOT AN ISOLATED CONDITION

GREG MIMS of RAP Inc. noted that individuals with HIV often have a myriad of issues to contend with beyond the disease itself. Many people with HIV have substance abuse issues, and many people with substance abuse issues have been sexually molested as children, Mr. Mims said. They must be helped by a professional. Layers of problems often come with layers of stigma. Mr. Mims said: "Those infected with HIV don't tell people. Stigma is alive and well—for HIV and substance abuse. If they do not get linked into services, the client will not stay on his drug regimen." Another challenge, when treating those addicted to substances, is the problem of drug resistance. Some people with a history of substance abuse and drug resistance are on 15 pills a day. Forty to fifty percent of HIV medications will be affected by interaction with illegal drugs. The key is to enable the person to stay adherent. Stigma remains obstacle to treatment and quality HIV care.

CREATE A CARING ENVIRONMENT

If you and your staff do not treat every individual with dignity, persons in need of care will not pursue treatment. Evaluator **DR. LAURINE THOMAS** told attendees that she sometimes dresses as a homeless person to evaluate the professionalism and sensitivity of front-office staff at health care practices.

SENSITIVITY TO THOSE ON THE MARGINS

"HIV is a permanent scarring of a person's identity," said moderator **DR. GOULDA DOWNER**. The stigma is strongest against those who are most in the margins. A married woman with an HIV diagnosis may not be looked down upon, but with an MSM (man who has sex with men) may encounter the attitude "you deserve it," Dr. Downer said. She noted that education does not always translate into sensitivity, understanding, or logic, when it comes to HIV. Dr. Downer urged health care professionals to create a welcoming health care environment for HIV infected individuals.



Greg Mims, of Regional Addiction Prevention (RAP Inc.), spoke about HIV and Substance Abuse.



Dr. Keisha Watson, Evaluation Manager/Assistant Professor at the AETC-NMC, Howard University College of Medicine.



Sharing insights about program evaluation: Research Consultant Dr. Laurine Thomas.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The DC Board of Dentistry meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am at 899 N. Capitol Street, NE, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20002

Time is allocated during Open Session at each Board Meeting to allow the public an opportunity to speak to the Board. Please notify us in advance if you plan to attend a meeting by sending an email to hpla@dc.gov.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM



CHA's Marisa Lengor speaks to the Board of Dentistry.

To attract healthcare providers to underserved areas, the DC Department of Health has established the **DC Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)**. **Dentists and registered dental hygienists may apply.**

"The goal of the program is to recruit and retain health professionals in Health Professional Shortage and Medically Underserved Areas of the District," the Community Health Administration's Marisa Lengor told Board members at a recent Board meeting. "Participants must have no obligation to any other loan repayment program, and practice in a clinic which accepts patients regardless of their ability to pay."

Dentists practicing general or pediatric dentistry and dental hygienists who have completed all required training are eligible to apply. The program pays up to \$120,000 for dentists; \$66,000 for hygienists.

For more information, contact the HPLRP:

- email the program at HPLRP@dc.gov
- phone **(202) 442-9168**
- or visit the HPLRP webpage at www.doh.dc.gov > Community Health > Primary Care Bureau > DC Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP).

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.

You may fax the complaint to the Board at (202) 724-8677, or mail it to one of the addresses below. You should mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Dentistry
899 North Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

If your complaint alleges unlicensed activity, mail it to:

Supervisory Investigator
899 North Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

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.

Dentistry Board Stats

Total Active Licensees
as of
October 3, 2011

DENTISTS
1,553

**DENTAL
HYGIENISTS**
645

CE AUDIT RESPONSE FORM

The Board of Dentistry has implemented a new audit form for licensees selected during the CE Audit. **If you have been selected for Audit, please submit the form below** to the Board of Dentistry at:
 DC Board of Dentistry, Attn: CE Audit, 899 North Capitol Street NE, First Floor, Washington DC 20002.

Name (please print) _____
 License Number _____
 Current CPR certificate? _____
 Total CE hours completed between January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011 _____

NAME OF COURSE AND ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDED THE PROGRAM	Date course was taken	Number of Contact Hours	Was it Live or Distance/Online? <i>No more than eight (8) CE hours can be online courses.</i>	Did this course include Infection Control? (Please indicate yes or no.)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

BOARD ORDERS

2010 and 2011

2010

REVOCATION

Mark Beck (06/24/2010) – The dentist's license was revoked for failure to comply with his Board Agreement regarding his treatment for substance abuse.

FINAL ORDER

Butler Redd, III (07/21/2010) – The dentist was notified by the Board that his application for licensure would not be considered for a five-year period due to his failure to disclose criminal infractions to the Board.

2011

FINAL ORDER

Steven A. Price (01/19/2011) – The dentist filed a false or misleading statement with the Board. Issued a final order to pay a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and complete a course in risk management that included record keeping.

CONSENT ORDER

Maury Branch, III (04/15/2011) – The dentist was issued a consent order requiring him to pay a fine of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00), and complete continuing education courses in oral diagnosis, radiology and record keeping.



Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



Health Professional
Licensing Administration

Address

DC Board of Dentistry
899 N. Capitol Street NE
First Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Phone

(202) 724-8872

Fax

(202) 724-8677

Webpage

www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

DC Government website

www.dc.gov

Current Members of The District of Columbia Board of Dentistry

Daniel N. Howard, Jr., DDS

Chairperson

Robert J. Caldwell, DDS

Sibyl L. Gant, RDH, BS

Renee A. McCoy-Collins, DDS

Bernard K. McDermott, DDS

Jezelle A. Sonnier, DDS

Annie G. Ponds

Consumer Member

Director, Department of Health
Mohammad N. Akhter, MD, MPH

Board Staff

Executive Director

Bonnie Rampersaud

Phone: (202) 724-7332

Email: bonnie.rampersaud@dc.gov

Health Licensing Specialist

Thomasine Pointer

Phone: (202) 724-8872

Email: thomasine.pointer@dc.gov

Assistant Attorney General

Van Brathwaite

Investigator

Rebecca Odrick

Newsletter Editor - Jezelle A. Sonnier, DDS

Newsletter Layout - Nancy Kofie

To use HRLA's website to check and verify a license, go to: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov