

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL
1:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 26, 2006
Synergy Business Center, Kingstree Building, Room 306-21
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC

On Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 1:00 p.m., Dr. William D. Cranford, Jr. called the Legislative Committee meeting to order. Members of the Committee present on the conference call were Dr. Charles E. Millwood, Jr., Chairman, Dr. Thomas M. Dixon and Tanya Riffe, RDH.

Members of the staff present on the conference call were Rion Alvey, Administrator; Terri Zeman, Administrative Assistant, and Rick Wilson, Deputy General Counsel. A member of the public, Mary Malone, a representative from Health Promotion Specialists, was also present on the conference call.

Dr. Cranford announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the main entrances of the Kingstree Building, Synergy Business Center, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times.

Motion: Dr. Dixon moved that the Committee approve the agenda as presented. The motion received a second and the motion passed.

Discussion Topics:

Registration of Mobile Dental Facilities or Portable Dental Operations

Committee Members reviewed Section 40-15-172(E) regarding the definition of mobile dental facilities or portable dental operations. Section 40-15-172(E) states, "For purposes of this section, 'mobile dental facility or portable dental operation' means a facility or operation that is not confined to a single building and that can be transported from place to place." A question was raised if this definition would cover non-facilities in which dental equipment, utilized in the practice of dentistry, is transported to and utilized on a temporary basis at an out-of-office location, i.e., other dentists' offices, patients' homes, schools, nursing homes, other institutions, etc. After discussion, Mr. Wilson advised that when the Board introduces its regulation to establish a registration fee, it might want to consider adding a section to define the terms "mobile dental facilities" and "portable dental operations," used in the current definition in Section 40-15-172(E).

It was noted that a dentist had inquired about a 35 lb. mobile carry unit, developed by the French Foreign Legion, equipped with water supply, compressor, suction and electric handpiece. He had used it over the past twenty years to accommodate hospital and nursing home patients on an as-needed basis. It was the consensus of the Committee that this dentist would need to register this portable dental unit.

Another dentist had inquired whether or not a digital x-ray system and portable source for use in postmortem ID's would need to be registered. It was the consensus of the Committee that these items would not need to be registered with the Board.

Next, Committee members reviewed the *draft* Application for Registration of a Mobile Dental Facility. The Committee recommended the following additions to the draft application:

1. A section will be added to the application for the applicant/registrant to indicate the type of mobile facility/portable unit to be registered. A description of the facility/unit (i.e., van or portable self-contained system) will be required as well as a serial number.
2. The current draft allows the registrant to respond "yes" or "no" to each question on the form. A third column will be added to allow the registrant to respond "N/A" to questions, if applicable.

The application will be revised with these additions and the final draft will be presented to the Board for approval at its October 27-28, 2006 meeting.

Next, Committee members reviewed the *draft* Inspection Form for Mobile Dental Facilities or Portable Dental Operations. The Committee recommended the following changes to the draft inspection form:

1. Questions # 1-5 on the "Application for Registration" form will be added to the "Inspection Form." The questions to be added are as follows:
 - 1) Does the mobile dental facility or portable dental operation have a written procedure for emergency follow-up care for patients treated in the facility?
 - 2) Does the mobile dental facility or portable dental operation have communication devices that will enable immediate contact with appropriate persons in the event of a medical or dental emergency?
 - 3) Does the mobile dental facility or portable dental operation comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances including, but not limited to, those concerning radiographic equipment, flammability, construction, sanitation, zoning, infectious waste management, universal precautions, OSHA guidelines, and federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines?
 - 4) Are carbon monoxide devices installed and in proper working order in the mobile dental facility?
 - 5) Do you possess all applicable county, state, and city licenses or permits to operate the unit at the location where services are being provided?
2. The following question is to be deleted from the draft Inspection Form: "Does the mobile dental facility or portable dental operation have an access ramp or lift if services are provided to disabled persons?" Mr. Wilson advised that this is an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issue that is not enforceable by the Board and, therefore, does not need to be on our inspection form.

3. The current draft allows the inspector to respond “yes” or “no” to each question on the form. A third column will be added to allow the inspector to respond “N/A” to questions, if applicable.

The draft inspection form will be revised with these additions and the final draft will be presented to the Board for approval at its October 27-28, 2006 meeting.

Next, the Committee discussed proposed registration fees. Staff provided the Committee with a list of other state boards that require the registration of mobile facilities and their fees. It was noted that South Carolina is one of the few states in the Southeast that require registration of mobile facilities. Based on research, staff recommended a “registration/application fee” of \$150.00 and an “annual renewal fee” of \$100.00. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the proposed fees were reasonable and will recommend the same to the Board in October.

For registration purposes, each mobile dental facility or portable dental operation will have to be registered. Committee members recommended that mobile dental facilities (or vans) should be inspected annually. It was recommended that portable dental units be inspected initially, upon registration, and the registration renewed annually without inspection. Ms. Riffe volunteered to gather information regarding portable dental units and to develop a “checklist” of items to be included on the inspection form for such units. She stated that if the Board is interested, she will try to bring a portable dental unit to the Board meeting in October. Mr. Alvey recommended that the inspectors do a couple of “mock” inspections prior to the actual inspections.

Mr. Wilson recommended that the staff coordinate the registration/inspection process of mobile dental facilities and portable dental units by scheduling appointments throughout the year. Committee members agreed that inspections need to be handled in a manner convenient to the registrants and staff conducting the inspections. Mr. Wilson further recommended that, in lieu of a “numbered certificate” being issued, the Board issue a “sticker” or “decal,” with the year printed on it, to be affixed at the time of registration/inspection. With regard to portable dental units, if the Board approves a one-time inspection for these units, the stickers could be mailed to the registrant upon renewal each year. It is anticipated that the dates of registration/inspection/renewal of facilities will be maintained in the ReLaes computer system.

The Legislative Committee will present its recommendations to the full Board at its October 27-28, 2006 Board meeting. The conference call adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Rion Alvey
Administrator