

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Dentistry
Teleconference Committee Meeting – Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy
9:00 a.m., February 19, 2021

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Dentistry office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the board website 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. In accordance with the Governor’s directives regarding social distancing, the meeting will be held via teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone. The telephone number and access code are provided on the posted agenda.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Marchi, RDH - Secretary
K. Britt Reagin, DMD, MS

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Horner, esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Board Administrator

PRESENT:

Melissa Blackwell, Court Reporter

CALL TO ORDER: Board Secretary, Ms. Marchi called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Reagin/approved.

Discussion of Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy (OMT)

Ms. Marchi provided the committee with a review of her research in which it was found that other states do not regulate the therapy as it is found to be outside the practice of dental hygiene. As it is separate from dental hygiene, Ms. Marchi stated the Board would not have jurisdiction to regulate certified therapists. Dr. Reagin agreed with the presented summary and confirmed his research found the same. Mr. Horner reported other states had addressed the matter at Board meetings but did not find where any decided to include it in their regulatory responsibility. Further, he clarified that while the OMT program may require a dental hygiene background to qualify for participation, it does not mean that the therapy is a function of dental hygiene. As the practices are separate, Mr. Horner stated a licensed dental hygienist holding an OMT certification should therefore not hold themselves out as a dental hygienist performing orofacial myofunctional therapy. The certification is separate from the practice of dental hygiene and should be represented as such. Dr. Reagin and Ms. Marchi agreed with Mr.

Horner's findings and requested Ms. Buttler to prepare documentation of the committee's findings in the form of an FAQ. Following Board approval of the FAQ, the committee requested Ms. Buttler follow up with the individuals who inquired into the matter to ensure they have been properly notified of the Board's determination.

LEGAL COMMENTS

Mr. Horner did not have any additional comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

NEXT MEETING

Committee members determined another meeting was not required.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn.
Reagin/approved.

The February 19, 2021, OMT committee meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.