

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Dentistry
Teleconference Committee Meeting – Sleep Apnea
1:30 p.m., June 28, 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. 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:

Thomas McDonald, MD, DDS
Charles Bumgardner, DMD

SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:

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

PRESENT:

Alan Barbieri, DDS
Phil Latham, SCDA
Jeremy Bayer, DDS
John C. Comisi, DMD
Julia Mickell, DMD
Dana Blalock, DMD

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. McDonad called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.
Bumgardner/approved.

Members of the committee introduced themselves.

Review: Proposed SC Board of Dentistry Position Statement on Sleep Apnea

Dr. McDonald expressed his appreciation to the work group and the support shown for the dentists practicing sleep dentistry. All committee members were provided with a copy of the group's proposed resolution. Following the reading of the proposed position statement, Dr. McDonald questions the necessity of the language specifying 'South Carolina licensed physician'. Mr. Horner stated after consultation with the SC Board of Medical Examiners, in order for the physician to interpret and provide a diagnosis for a patient in South Carolina, the physician must be licensed in South Carolina. Further discussion ensued to clarify the difference

between a patient being referred and traveling to a physician not licensed in SC and the sleep test being conducted by a SC licensed dentist and then sent off for reading and diagnosis to a non-SC licensed physician. Dr. Bumgardner asked the current practicing sleep dentist at the meeting if the statement is passed by the Board, if there would be a change in their practice. Dr. Barbieri stated it would have a significant impact. At this time, when they wish to order an at-home test, they must first request a physician to order the test on their behalf. With the resolution, they would be able to skip requesting the test from a physician, incorporating them when the results need to be read and a diagnosis made. Both Dr. Barbieri and Dr. Blalock affirmed the approval of the statement would improve access to care.

Dr. Bumgardner expressed concerns over the statement wording and the potential for Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance abuse. Dr. Comisi stated most licensed dentists will not be ordering the tests unless they are familiar with sleep dentistry. Additionally, the cost of the tests is relatively low and therefore not a large margin of profit to be gained by those seeking to abuse the system. Dr. McDonald recommended additional language be added to restrict the statement's applicability and address Dr. Bumgardner's concerns. Dr. Comisi proposed the addition of "If screening suspicions dictate..." prior to the beginning of the proposed statement. Members of the work group confirmed no objections to the amended language.

Motion: To approve the proposed position statement with the amended introductory language.
Bumgardner/McDonald/approved.

LEGAL COMMENTS

Mr. Horner did not have any additional comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

NEXT MEETING

No additional meetings are needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The June 28, 2021, Sleep Apnea committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.