

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina Board of Dentistry**  
**Teleconference Committee Meeting – Sleep Apnea**

1:30 p.m., May 7, 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:**

Thomas McDonald, MD, DDS  
Charles Bumgardner, DMD

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**PRESENT:**

Carla Dominick, Court Reporter  
Alan Barbieri, DDS  
Phil Latham, SCDA  
Jeremy Bayer, DDS  
John C. Comisi, DMD  
Julia Mickell, DMD  
Richele Taylor, Esq.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. McDonad called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda.  
Barbieri/Comisi/approved.

Members of the committee introduced themselves.

**Development of Board Position Statement Regarding Dental Scope of Practice and Testing and Diagnosis of Sleep Apnea**

Dr. McDonald expressed that dentist play an important role in sleep apnea management and while the ability to diagnose is not being sought, the committee is tasked with the creation of a position statement regarding the dentist ability to prescribe a home sleep apnea test. Working

in conjunction with a licensed medical profession specializing in sleep medicine, licensed dentist are able to prescribe sleep dental appliances and participate in the evaluation of the therapeutic effects of the devices. Dr. Comisi stated the current process restricts licensed dentist from ordering home sleep test without first establishing a profession relationship with the licensed medical profession who will be reviewing the test results and determining a diagnosis. As most licensed dentist do not have an established relationship with a medical professional, this greatly hinders the dentists ability to assist their patients in receiving proper care for their conditions.

Mr. Horner stated most states at this time have not addressed the issue. Of the reported seven states that have addressed the matter of whether or not a licensed dentist may order a home sleep apnea tests (HSATs), six have reported an answer of 'No'. Currently North Carolina will allow HSAT ordering only for titration. Mr. Horner stated that it was unclear as to why it has been determined that dentists are not allowed to order HSATs and cited that the medical boards in those states may have determined the diagnosis processes may include the ordering of the HSAT.

Dr. Bayer and Dr. Barbieri reiterated the clear distinction between ordering of the HSAT and interpreting the results for diagnostic purposes. All committee members agreed the results of a HSAT must be reviewed and diagnosis made by a medical profession specializing in sleep medicine. Dr. McDonald stated he believed the ordering of a HSAT is within the scope of the dental practice in South Carolina as it is an effective and integral screening tool in the management of diseases. Dr. McDonald requested a work group be developed for the purpose of writing a position statement to recommend to the Board. Dr. Comisi, Dr. Barbieri and Dr. Bayer agreed to be the work group members. Following the development of the work group's statement, it will be resubmitted to the committee for review. The committee would like to present the position statement at the July 9, 2021 Board meeting.

#### **LEGAL COMMENTS**

Mr. Horner did not have any additional comments.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Following notice of the work group's completion, Ms. Buttler will schedule a committee meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The May 7, 2021, Sleep Apnea committee meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.