

BCCOHP BOARD OPEN MEETING**Thursday, September 5, 2024****9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.****Karen England Meeting Room,
110 – 1765 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC
Main Floor****MINUTES**

The British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP or "the College") Open Board Meeting commenced at 8:45 a.m.

In Attendance

Carl Roy, Chair

Julie Akeroyd (via Teams)

Elizabeth (Lise) Cavin

Pat Dooley

Hooman Janami

Dr. Lina Jung

Cathy Larson (via Teams)

Rachel Ling

Shirley Ross

Amandeep Singh

Kim Trottier

Regrets

Marion Erickson

Staff in Attendance

Dr. Chris Hacker, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Bethany Benoit-Kelly, Senior Manager, Communications and Engagement

Rebecca Chisholm, Director, Professional Practice

Shivalika Katyal, Dental Hygiene Advisor (via Teams)

Karen Mok, General Counsel

Stephanie Nicholls, Director, Transformation and Change

Róisín O'Neill, Executive Director, Policy, Planning and People

Leslie Riva, Director, Registration and Certification

Jennifer Roff, Director, Regulation

Sasan Solaimani, Technical Support

Mary Yu, Executive Assistant to the Registrar/CEO

Dan Zeng, Executive Director, Finance, IT and Operations

Guests

Allan Boos, Denturist Association of BC

Julie Guenkel, Finance, Audit, and Risk Committee

Darren Sailer, Denturist Association of BC

Robert Whiteley, Standards and Guidance Committee

Preparation of Minutes

Megan Krempel, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. Call Meeting to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

Carl Roy, Chair, called the Open Board Meeting to order and provided a territorial acknowledgement. Guests in attendance were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Hooman Janami and Amandeep Singh declared they were practicing denturists and a member of the Denturist Association of BC (DABC), and Pat Dooley acknowledged her legacy affiliation with the DABC Board when the issue of FIT interpretation was considered. The Chair reminded Board members to bring forward any potential conflicts that arise during the meeting to ensure formal declarations are recorded.

3. Approval of September 5, 2024 Open Board Meeting Agenda (*attachment*)

The Chair noted that approval of the Board Meeting Agenda had been removed from the Consent Agenda in order to allow Board members to bring additional items to meeting agendas. No additions were made to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION:

It was MOVED (Rachel Ling) and SECONDED (Shirley Ross)

RESOLVED that the Board approve the Open Board Meeting Agenda for September 5, 2024.

CARRIED

4. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of June 20, 2024, Open Board Meeting Minutes (*attachment*)

2. Reports from Committees (*attachments*)

- a. Inquiry
- b. Patient-Centred Care
- c. Quality Assurance
- d. Registration
- e. Sedation and General Anesthesia

RESOLUTION:

It was MOVED (Shirley Ross) and SECONDED (Hooman Janami)

RESOLVED that the Board approve the items on the Open Consent Agenda for the September 5, 2024 BCCOHP Open Board Meeting.

CARRIED

5. Nomination and Appointment Committee Report ([attachments](#))

Rachel Ling, Nomination and Appointment Committee member, reported that the Committee would be meeting in the fall to prepare recommendations for the Board's consideration, including for incoming Committee membership positions for terms commencing March 31, 2025.

6. Standards and Guidance Committee ([attachment](#))

Robert Whiteley, Standards and Guidance Committee, referred to the Briefing Note and documents provided with the Agenda materials and highlighted work on aligning four legacy college standards, in particular the Professional and Practice Standards. The Professional Standards provide the minimum core requirements for ethical and professional performance and conduct for all Oral Health Professionals (OHP). Practice Standards are additional requirements for professional conduct in high-risk areas of oral health. Practice Standards are directly connected to Professional Standards.

The Standards are currently being drafted, would include consultation with internal and external experts, be reviewed by the Standards and Guidance Committee in the fall, and brought to the Board at an upcoming Meeting.

During discussion, comments were offered related to:

- Appreciation for the plain language used in the documents, which was key for public consumption
- The wide usage of the BC Public Advisory Network by the BC Health Regulators Association, which provides meaningful engagement for health care regulations
- The expectation that patient outcomes be clearly articulated and posted on the walls of OHP offices.

7. National Dental Examining Board of Canada Board Appointment ([attachment](#))

Dr. Chris Hacker, CEO/Registrar, referred to a previous Board meeting in which the need to nominate a candidate for appointment as the BCCOHP's representative on the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB). The NDEB provides certification and confidence for accredited candidates from outside the Province and Canada and provides equivalency for international programs. Three qualified candidates were considered and it was felt that with their international training, Dr. Bertrand Chan would be the ideal individual to take on the role.

Dr. Hacker advised of their attendance at multiple national meetings and tables and assured the Board that in order to not over-burden with information, they would continue to bring to the Board's attention issues of significant importance or impact. Staff would provide guidance through Briefing Notes on what information coming from the NDEB would be considered optional or necessary reading.

RESOLUTION:

It was MOVED (Shirley Ross) and SECONDED (Dr. Lina Jung)

RESOLVED that the Board appoint Dr. Bertrand Chan as the BCCOHP representative to the National Dental Examining Board of Canada Board for a three-year term, beginning November 2024.

CARRIED

8. General Meeting (*attachment*)

Karen Mok, General Counsel, advised of the BCCOHP bylaws that required the BCCOHP Board to hold a General Meeting no more than 15 months after its previous meeting. The recommendation was to hold the next General Meeting virtually on December 12, 2024. The intention was for the meeting to begin at 4:30 p.m. to allow for a wider audience to attend. The Meeting would be recorded for those who were unable to attend.

RESOLUTION:

It was MOVED (Shirley Ross) and SECONDED (Kim Trottier)

RESOLVED that the Board hold the General Meeting on December 12, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

CARRIED

9. Request for Recognition of Dental Hygiene Degree/Degree Completion Program (*attachment*)

Shivalika Katyal, Dental Hygiene Advisor, referred to the related summary Briefing Note provided with the Agenda materials and reported on the BCCOHP's review of a proposal for a dental hygiene Bachelor of Science program at Camosun College. The recommendation was that the Board approve and officially recognize the Dental Hygiene Program at Camosun College for their diploma and degree completion programs as equivalent to other recognized programs in BC.

During ensuing discussion, comments were offered related to:

- The University of British Columbia currently being the only other college/university that offers the degree program and the degree completion in BC
- Whether there were capacity issues in the provision of dental care in BC with the new Canadian Dental Care Plan:
 - The Camosun programs would help increase access to dental hygiene care and allow for more opportunities and clinics in rural areas
- Expectation that Camosun College would continue to offer both the diploma and degree completion programs
- The Camosun College diploma program being a three-year program with an option for degree completion for an additional one to two years
- Note that the program would equal over 120 credits, which was considered a degree equivalent and was recognized by the Ministry of Education
- Note that the degree program would not increase the clinical scope of practice but would allow a graduate to open their own practice, increasing access to dental hygiene care to the public, and make referrals to a dentist.

RESOLUTION:**It was MOVED (Lise Cavin) and SECONDED (Dr. Lina Jung)**

RESOLVED that the Board recognize the proposed dental hygiene degree program from Camosun College, Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene, as equivalent to a British Columbia dental hygiene program.

CARRIED

10. Presentation – Interpretive Guidance for Definition of Fit Relating to Implant Overdentures

Allan Boos, DABC, declared that he was a past member of the DABC Board and a registered lobbyist for the DABC since 2017.

Darren Sailer, DABC, declared that he was a past Chairperson of the College of Denturists of BC (CDBC), Past-President of the DABC, Chairperson of the Legislation and Scope of Practice Committee, CDBC, member of the Program Advisory Committee at Vancouver Community College, and a member of the Regulatory Working Group of the legacy CDBC.

Allan Boos and Darren Sailer were in attendance to request that the BCCOHP pass a special resolution to reinstate the Interpretive Guidance for the Definition of Fit Relating to Implant Overdentures (Interpretive Guidance) and that as the College proceeded with its regulatory review process, that the Standards and Guidance Committee collaborate with active dental health professionals, such as implant dentists and dentists working with dentures.

The position of Allan Boos and Darren Sailer was that:

- The removal of the Interpretive Guidance document was done without notification, collaboration, or discussion with denturists
- The definition of fit means to perform any nonsurgical intra-oral procedure related to dispensing a denture, including the making of impressions:
 - The definition was added when the Ministry of Health (MoH) amended the denturist regulation to be more broad, less restricted, and to provide clarity for the regulation
- The Interpretive Guidance was comprehensive and designed to protect the public
- The desire for the denturist regulations in BC to come into alignment with the rest of Canada and expand their scope of practice (*a related document of provincial comparisons of regulatory scope using National Association data was circulated to the BCCOHP Board members on table*)
- Rescinding the Interpretive Guidance would potentially leave many patients in a “grey area” without service
- Some of the information used as rationale for rescinding the Interpretive Guidance was contradictory or incorrect
- BC denturists were being discriminated against and the rescinding of the document would move the sector backwards and put the public at risk

- The Interpretive Guidance provided safety guidelines under the prescription and operation of a dentist
- The DABC obtained a comprehensive legal opinion on the regulation in 2021 (*a copy of the legal opinion was circulated to BCCOHP Board members on table*).

A lengthy discussion ensued in which comments were offered regarding:

- Clarification on the intention of the historic DABC lobbying efforts for scope advancement and the ability to include “screw retained dentures” in denturist practice:
 - This could only be achieved with regulatory change from the MoH
- Denturists providing oral restoration care for patients who are unable to receive this in dentist offices
- The College’s ability to make decisions based on regulation and its vested authority
- Note that it was the obligation of every regulated OHP to understand the legislation that pertained to them; it was not the College’s duty to interpret it for them
- Clarification that the College had not met with the MoH separately on the issue
- The MoH’s goal to modernize regulatory language, potentially increasing access to activities, but not increasing the denturists scope
- Note that the legacy Registrants Working Group was established to educate the DABC board on how Registrants in the province could use the regulation, assisted by the Interpretive Guidance for safety
- Concerns that the denturists were seeking a “workaround” for restricted activity
- Note that denturists were not altering nor harming implants, only attaching them
- Note that denturists work under a prescription model in the making of an overdenture
- Regardless of whether the Interpretive Guidance was in place or not, it would not change the obligation of the OHP to ensure patient safety and to work within their own scope.

Health Break

The meeting paused at 10:33 a.m. and returned at 10:47 a.m.

11. Legacy Guidance Documents – Request to Rescind

Karen Mok and Jennifer Roff, Executive Director, Regulation, advised that as part of the Professional Standards Development Project, staff reviewed all legacy practice resource documents. During the review, several documents were identified, including some which were currently available on the College’s website, that were not aligned with current BCCOHP regulations and bylaws. It was emphasized that removing these documents from the BCCOHP website had no legal ramifications to the College. It was further noted that an internal legal review of the documents had been conducted, and it was confirmed there was an organizational risk to the College if the documents in question were not rescinded.

BCCOHP staff would continue to review legacy documents, with the goal of modernizing and aligning them with the College's professional standards.

During further discussion on the rescinding of the Interpretive Guidance, comments were offered regarding:

- Agreement that there were limitations with the current denturist regulation
- Note that without ability to review the presenter's 2021 legal opinion, there was no rationale for changing staff's recommendation to rescind the documents
- Suggestion there be advocacy and collaboration and future consideration of the denturist regulation
- Preparing a communications plan to ensure all Registrants were aware of the rescission and impacts
- Note that it was ultimately up to Registrants to understand their specific bylaws, regulations, and limits in scope
- Emphasis that the rescinded documents were guidance documents, not Regulation and that Registrants must at all times be knowledgeable of their legal obligations to practice within their legal scope.
- Clarification that standards were expectations that protect patients, whereas guidance was not authoritative
- Note that guidance provided by the College was not exhaustive, and it was the obligation of the professionals to work within their own competence and ensure public safety
- Clarification that the BCCOHP Professional Practice Team would be available to support patients and Registrants but could not provide specific clinical advice – that was the role of the related associations.

In consideration of the proposed resolution to rescind the guidance several comments and concerns were noted. Following discussion and in recognition that more time was required to review materials tabled at the meeting in particular the legal opinion referred to during the presentation the Board agreed to defer a decision at this time.

[DEFERRED](#)

12. Public Questions

It was deemed that sufficient time had been provided for questions from the public.

This concludes the Open Meeting – 11:22 a.m.