



ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

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BODEX UPDATE

As reported last month, the upcoming 2016 legislative session will most likely be an interesting one given Governor Ducey's announcement that he plans to consolidate or eliminate state agencies and commissions. Speaking about politics, the Board's Chairman, Dr. Hauer, and I had the honor of representing the Arizona Dental Board at the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) meeting in Washington, D.C. in November. Additionally, I attended the American Association of Dental Administrators (AADA) meeting and was elected to serve as President of AADA for the next year. Dr. Hauer and I are not by the enclosed picture with Congressman Paul Gossar, DDS supporting any party affiliation! Dr. Gossar and another dentist congressman, Brian Babin, DDS, addressed the group with an interesting update on healthcare issues they are working on at the Capitol.

Of note, there were several presentations at the AADB meeting related to licensure. The American Student Dental Association is encouraging the AADB and the American Dental Association (ADA) to evaluate the current methodology of testing to provide improved licensure portability.

One of the most important opportunities at these meetings is to dialogue about national issues and to learn about the challenges other states face. At the AADA meeting, a day is dedicated to networking. Of interest, here are some recent occurrences at other state Dental Boards:

- Legislation enacted that requires a dentist to query him/herself in the Controlled Prescription Monitoring Program in order to renew their license (more states have enacted legislation regarding this and it is anticipated this will occur in Arizona);
- Legislation enacted requiring continuing education in prescribing controlled substances;
- Legislation enacted requiring continuing education in sensitivity training for LGBT;
- Medicaid now paying for implants.

I also recently attended investigative training sponsored by the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) which again provided an opportunity to learn from other state regulatory agencies as well as identify opportunities for improvement in our own investigations. It did reinforce that the Board has a good investigative process. The Dental Board members also participated in CLEAR training by taking five hours of education covering topics such as Professional Discipline, Assessing Competence and Roles and Responsibilities of a Board member.

In closing, I would like to share the BODEX top ten which Dr. Palmer and I elaborate on at the close of our study club presentation. If you would appreciate further elaboration, please do not hesitate to contact me!

1. Don't allow the patient to dictate treatment
2. Manage patient expectations
3. Retain a good attorney
4. Know the definitions of unprofessional conduct
5. Respond timely to the Board
6. Employ trained staff
7. Ensure an effective Gate Keeper
8. Don't underestimate the importance of communication
9. If it isn't documented, it didn't happen
10. Don't party with your staff

Best wishes for 2016 and may the Cardinals be at the Super Bowl!