



North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners

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COMMENTS OF RITA SOMMERS, RDH, MBA
ON BEHALF OF THE
NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
BEFORE THE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT'S INTERIM HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014 AT 9:00AM

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information and answer questions regarding the NDSBDE's role in addressing the *LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY – ACCESS TO DENTAL SERVICES*. My name is Rita Sommers and I serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners.

Dental residencies:

Comments will be restricted as the Board does not have a collective knowledge, nor have they studied potential for establishing dental residencies and related costs. Other states language regarding residents pertains to requirements of a dental/residency permit such as graduation from a dental college or school or verification that the applicant is expected to graduate within a specified time frame.

Liability insurance:

Regarding availability of insurance for dental assistants and dental hygienists; liability coverage is sold by various insurance companies to health care professionals. Professional associations offer discounts with memberships. I am unaware of dental therapist liability insurance however employees are generally covered under the umbrella plan of the employer. The determinant of price in my plan required information on the amount of liability coverage, the deductible and if in fact I had ever been sued, convicted of a crime etc.

Expanded functions adopted by the board:

The Board recently re-noticed to the rules and is poised to move forward. The comment period ends August 6, 2014. The rules are currently being reviewed by the Attorney General's Office. In a recent conversation with Attorney General's Legal Counsel, it was agreed that only miscellaneous typos would need to be corrected and therefore no additions or deletions to the proposed amendments have initiated. It is the Board's earnest opinion the amendments will give impetus to the multi faceted issues surrounding barriers to care and defend the NDSBDE's fiduciary, and ethical responsibilities.