



# North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners

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Legislative Management's Interim Health Services Committee

Roughrider Room, State Capitol, Bismarck

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Good Morning Chairman Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rita Sommers. As you are aware, I have been invited here to briefly comment on streamlining credentialing for dental providers on reservations and regarding the recognition of state licensing by Tribes and Indian Health Services.

At the present time, credentialing of dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants who wish to practice anywhere in North Dakota except on or within military installations and on or within Indian Health Service facilities on the reservations is the responsibility of the NDBODE. With regard to individuals seeking employment to provide similar dental services in IHS Dental Clinics, with limited exception, they are credentialed through the regional IHS office in Aberdeen, South Dakota. If Aberdeen needs to verify the authenticity of existing licensure in North Dakota, Aberdeen officials can do so expeditiously by accessing the ND Board of Dental Examiners web site.

It may be helpful to understand as well that once credentialed by the Aberdeen Regional Office of the Indian Health Service, dentists, hygienists and dental assistants are governed by federal guidelines with regard to procedures they may administer and care they may provide in IHS dental clinics. They are not governed by North Dakota dental laws. This is similarly true for dentists, hygienists and assistants working in military dental clinics.

According to the IHS website [<https://www.ihs.gov/dentistry/faqs/#q3>], a dental license is not required by IHS if the practitioner is currently in training. If the dental applicant is applying for the Civil Service or the Commissioned Corps, employment requires a dental license from any of the 50 US states. This is the case for North Dakota IHS clinics. For direct tribal hire, other states require license in the state in which the practitioner is employed. In North Dakota, it is the tribe's prerogative to accept licensure from any state. If it so happens that these individuals are licensed in North Dakota, verification of licensure may be completed by Aberdeen by means of a telephone call to the BODE office or online in a matter of minutes.

I am unaware of any North Dakota law that would impede a licensed (licensed in any state) dentist from seeking employment from Indian Health Service in North Dakota. The same information appears to be true for dental assistants and dental hygienists seeking Tribal employment. The list below provides names of individuals currently employed in IHS clinics in North Dakota and further indicates whether or not these individuals are licensed in North Dakota. As is shown, many are not licensed in North Dakota. In all likelihood they are licensed in another state. This list underscores the Tribes' existing sovereignty in its own credentialing process and independence from the state of North Dakota's process. This sovereignty is further recognized in the fact that guidelines as to what types of care and procedures can be performed by which individuals is similarly independent from ND law and is instead governed by federal guidelines.

The NDBDE will continue to provide information expeditiously to authorities seeking credentialing of any North Dakota licensee.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**Service Unit: Fort Berthold - Three Affiliated Tribes – Location: New Town, ND “638”**

<b>Practitioner</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Licensed or Registered in ND</b>
Michael Melland	CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER	Yes
Robert Kifer	DENTIST	Yes
Scott Mortensen	DENTIST	Yes
Tara Stockhausen	DENTAL HYGIENIST	Yes
Jolene Manuelito	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Fernlynn Dupris	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Kathleen Beston	DENTAL ASSISTANT (CDA)	Yes
Julie Herbel	DENTAL ASSISTANT	Yes
Geralyn Roanhorse	DENTAL ASSISTANT	Yes
Roberta Krueger	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No

**Service Unit: Standing Rock Tribe: Dakota Nation Location: Fort Yates, ND**

Clay Matthew Byington	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Kera Dedman	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Amanda Engelhardt	DENTIST	Yes
John Gonzales	CHIEF DENT OFFICER	Yes
Whitney Jones	DENTAL HYGIENIST	No
Mikayla Kills Pretty Enemy	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Joanne Luger	DENTIST	Yes
Norma McLaughlin	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Linda Ridgway	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Duanna Silk	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Jacqueline Stirewalt	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Brenda Strongheart	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Caitlin Thomas	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Marlene Traxinger	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No
Hope Waliser	DENTAL ASSISTANT	No

Maudella Renee Whitebead DENTAL HYGIENIST No

**Service Unit Turtle Mountain Indian Health Tribe: Chippewa Location: Belcourt, ND**

Charlene Allard EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Marla Belgarde DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Blanche Berg DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Colleen Davis DENTAL HYGIENIST Yes

Tanya DeCoteau DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Brandon Dobmeier DENTAL OFFICER No

Melissa Eberts DENTAL OFFICER Yes

Kevin Fitzgerald DENTAL OFFICER No

Burton Norris DENTAL OFFICER No

Reeanne Parisien DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Tiffany Parisien DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Candida Peltier DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Michaela Poitra EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Emma Smith EXPANDED FUNCTIONS DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Julius Theophilus CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER No

Kay Witzel DENTAL HYGIENIST Yes

**Service Unit: Trenton Tribe: Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Location: Trenton, ND**

Lisa Cohoe CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER Yes

Shelley Ellis DENTAL HYGIENIST Yes

Julie Slater DENTAL HYGIENIST Yes

Sharlotte Cayko DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Kevin Bercier DENTAL ASSISTANT No

**Service Unit: Fort Totten Tribe: Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe Location: Fort Totten, ND "638"**

Wesley Johnson CHIEF DENTIST No

Amber Neppel DENTAL HYGIENIST Yes

Ross Green DENTAL ASSISTANT No

Debbie Jetty DENTAL ASSISTANT No