

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

---

2013-14 Performance Report

---

Oklahoma Board of Dentistry

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

It is the duty of the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry to protect the public safety by ensuring the safe and legal practice of dentistry in the State of Oklahoma through the enforcement of the Oklahoma Dental Practices act and other State laws.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Susan Rogers, Esq.  
Executive Director  
201 N.E. 38<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Suite 2  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105  
Office: (405) 524-9037  
Cell: (405) 613-8747

GOVERNANCE:

The Board of Dentistry is a Constitutional Agency that was created at Statehood in the original Oklahoma Constitution in 1907 and was one of the first four State agencies. Prior to Statehood it was the Oklahoma Territorial Dental Board from 1891-1906.

The Executive Director is hired by the Board of Dentistry. The previous Director served for 35 years, the current Director Susan Rogers took over approximately 2 years ago.

The Board is made of 11 people, 8 dentists, 1 hygienist and 2 laypersons. The 8 dentists are elected by district and serve three year terms with a maximum term limit of 9 years. The hygienist is elected statewide from all the hygienists and serves a three-year term with a maximum of 9 years. The two laypersons are appointed by the Governor and by statute, may not be related to a dentist or hygienist.

Current Members of the Board:

Board President: Dr. Brad Hoopes, Muskogee  
Board Vice President: Dr. Dan Storm, Elk City  
Board 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Dr. James Sparks, Oklahoma City  
Board Secretary: Dr. Steve Lusk, Tulsa  
Member: Dr. Stanley Crawford, Grove  
Member: Dr. Trent Yadon, Woodward  
Member: Dr. Jeffrey Nelson, Kingston  
Member: Dr. Wavel Wells, Lawton  
Member: Angela Craig, RDH, Edmond  
Member: Chief Phil Cotton (retired), Norman  
Member: Loretta K. Roberts, Esq. Broken Arrow

Committees and Subgroups:

1. Hygiene Committee – members appointed by the Board and the elected Hygiene Board Member also serves. The committee has regular meetings in between the

## Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

### 2013-14 Performance Report

---

Board Meetings and makes recommendations to the Board regarding hygiene related issues.

2. Anesthesia Committee and Inspectors – members appointed by the Board. All members are licensed dentists and/or specialists and have a current anesthesia permit issued by the Board. This group is currently reviewing the anesthesia rules to bring them up to date and in compliance with current American Dental Association standards. This group also works with the agency investigators and Director to complete in office inspections of new and current anesthesia providers. Each year there are approximately 2-4 deaths related to a dental procedure and at least half of these are related to anesthesia. This area continues to grow as more dentists are using various forms of anesthesia for patient comfort.

#### GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

There is no statutory attendance policy for Board members currently. All Board Members attend regularly.

#### MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Historically this agency has not kept up with technology. Upon arrival the current director did not have a computer or line to connect a computer in the Directors office. None of the computers are networked, or hooked to the primary printer. The agency has a very old and very limited “database” that is a basic word processing program on asce II. However, the primary database is utilization of “rolodex” cards in a large file. Our previous website was privately hosted and after the new technology law passed the previous hosting organization disappeared and we have had no access to our website for over a year. We have been working with Ok.Gov and OMES for two years on all of these issues.

In the recent past, there had been no funds to purchase or hire someone to program a computer database for the agency. When the current agency director took over in early 2011, there were three civil lawsuits against the agency, two active injunctions and a third injunction pending. Since arrival, the Agency Director has also acted as the General Counsel for the agency and has been able to save approximately \$70,000.00 to \$80,000.00 a year versus a monthly contracted Assistant Attorney General and outside private counsel. Private counsel is maintained on contract on an as needed basis in cases of ethical conflicts. Additionally, two long-term employees have retired, having a total payout of unused time and leave of an approximate total of \$36,000.00.

Due to a lack of technology, EVERYTHING is sent by regular mail. The cost of mail has substantially increased in the past ten years. Slowly, this process is being changed over to emailing anything possible and cutting back on anything not absolutely necessary to mail. Additional methods to save money have included not refilling an open position and cutting back on items previously provided by the Board such as free statute and rule books printed and given out by the Board. The agency has been able to purchase new computers and programs to make steps towards getting up to date. However, we are still not networked or have a data base but are continuing to work with OMES. Our average yearly amount of

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

---

2013-14 Performance Report

---

Oklahoma Board of Dentistry

money budgeted and spent over the past several years has been approximately \$3,000.00 on computer equipment and services. The recent bid we have received from OMES is somewhere approximately \$12,000.00 per year but does not include the website and several other items. It is believe our average cost will be somewhere around \$20,000.00 per year for leases and services of technology including telephones.

Additional modernization efforts are primarily efforts to coordinate with other dental related organizations such as the Oklahoma School of Dentistry, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority overseeing Medicaid (soonercare) and local hospitals to save some costs and efforts for all groups. We also share equipment and space with other Boards when available.

CORE MISSION:

Currently, because of our lack of technology, all agency employees are required to assist the general staff in hand processing approximately 10,000 renewals, hand entering data and answer the approximate 100 to 125 phone calls per day. Additionally, staff is now required to learn how to work on the web program offered by ok.gov to create and update our future website. These things are causing us to fall behind on our investigations which are our primary core function. We are in desperate need of additional staff. When our technology is brought current, we potentially could gain the equivalence of a staff member.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

The Board sits en banc as Administrative Judges in Administrative Court in any hearing of an alleged violation on a license or permit. If privatized, the outside costs of the expert witnesses to evaluate cases would potentially be extremely high as well as additional attorney fees. Legal issues would not be able to be resolved at the Administrative Court level and all would likely go to District Court. The agency investigators are CLEET certified State police officers. Approximately ½ or more of the cases we work are drug related. Approximately 80% of the cases we work have potential criminal charges. The issues we have regularly include: drug related crimes, forged prescriptions, sexual battery, insurance fraud, medicaid fraud, fatality investigations and unauthorized illegal practice. A large number of our cases are not dentists, but dental assistants, dental labs and office staff. Our investigators regularly work with local law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) each of which have oversight on Dentists that have prescription drug licenses.

There are no real private alternatives, nor has the Board been approached by anyone about privatizing functions.