

STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Minutes
April 10, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Dr. Annette Williamson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in room W064, Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, and declared a quorum in accordance with Indiana Code § 25-14-1-12(a).

Board Members Present:

Annette J. Williamson, D.D.S., President
Robert D. Findley, D.D.S., Vice President
Edward Sammons, D.D.S., Secretary/Designee
Richard R. Nowakowski, D.D.S.
R. Daron Sheline, D.D.S.
Matthew Kolkman, D.D.S.
Crunchy Wells, D.M.D.
Twyla Rader, L.D.H.
Shelley Gregg, Consumer Member

Board Members Not Present:

Kevin Ward, D.D.S.
Jeffrey L. Snoddy, D.D.S.

State Officials Present:

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Dana Brooks, Assistant Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Brad Repass, Litigation Specialist, Professional Licensing Agency
Leif Johnson, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended.

Sammons/Findley
Motion carried 9-0-0

III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes are still under review.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

A. Kurt Richeson, DDS, License No. 12010186A

Cause No. 2012 ISBD 0016

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent present
Heather Orbaugh, Court Reporter, Accurate Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Annette J. Williamson, D.D.S., (Hearing Officer)
Robert D. Findley, D.D.S.
Richard R. Nowakowski, D.D.S.
Edward Sammons, D.D.S.
Matthew Kolkman, D.D.S.
Crunchy Wells, D.M.D.
Dr. R. Daron Sheline, D.D.S.
Twyla Rader, L.D.H.
Shelley Gregg, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about May 18, 2012, the Board voted to renew Dr. Richeson with the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation and may not request withdrawal of probation until successful completion of the Indiana Dental Association's Well Being Program.
- While on probation, Dr. Richeson must complete the following terms:
 - Make appearance before the Board twice in the first year of his probation, and annually after the first year.
 - Not to drink alcohol.
 - Submit in writing information on any prescriptive medication he takes and provide an updated list should that list change.
 - Enter into the Well Being Program and comply with all requirements of the program
 - Comply with all statutes and rules of the practice of dentistry.

Dr. Richeson stated that he has met all the terms of his probation and is requesting to withdrawal of the probation status. He indicated that he continues attending AA meetings on a weekly basis and completed the Well Being Program in December 2025. He stated that he practices two days a week at the prison and three days a week at a private practice.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Dr. Richeson's petition for withdrawal of probation.

Findley/Sheline
Motion carried 9-0-0

B. Elyse Janke, LDH, License No. 13007471A
Cause No. 202405-DEN-0004
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent present
Heather Orbaugh, Court Reporter, Accurate Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Annette J. Williamson, D.D.S., (Hearing Officer)
Robert D. Findley, D.D.S.
Richard R. Nowakowski, D.D.S.
Edward Sammons, D.D.S.
Matthew Kolkman, D.D.S.
Crunchy Wells, D.M.D.
Dr. R. Daron Sheline, D.D.S.
Twyla Rader, L.D.H.
Shelley Gregg, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about June 5, 2024, the Board renewed Ms. Jenke's license with the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation and cannot request to withdraw probation until her criminal probation has been discharged.
- Submit quarterly reports on her progress with her substance abuse treatment program.
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the practice of dentistry.

On or about December 1, 2025, the Board modified her probation:

- She has submitted proof that her criminal probation was discharged
- Submit to the Board a copy of a substance use evaluation
- Comply with all other terms of her license probation terms.

Ms. Janke stated that she has completed all terms of her probation and stated that she is not currently enrolled in therapy. She stated that she uses an AI app named "Sunflower" to help manage her mental health with meditations. She stated that she is working full time in a dental practice.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Jenke's petition for withdrawal of probation.

Kolkman/Rader
Motion carried 9-0-0

C. Irene Smith, LDH, License No. 13008969A

Cause No. 202408-DEN-0013

Re: Petition for Withdraw Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent present
Heather Orbaugh, Court Reporter, Accurate Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Annette J. Williamson, D.D.S., (Hearing Officer)
Robert D. Findley, D.D.S.
Richard R. Nowakowski, D.D.S.

Edward Sammons, D.D.S.
Matthew Kolkman, D.D.S.
Crunchy Wells, D.M.D.
Dr. R. Daron Sheline, D.D.S.
Twyla Rader, L.D.H.
Shelley Gregg, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about August 22, 2024, the Board renewed Ms. Smith's license with the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation and cannot request to withdraw probation until her criminal probation has been discharged.
- Make a personal appearance before the Board in April 2025 or the next meeting after April 2025 if there is no April meeting. If the probation is terminated prior to the appearance, then this provision will be rendered moot.
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the practice of dentistry

Ms. Smith stated that she has met all terms of her probation, and requests that the status be withdrawn. She stated that her probation officer stated that they do not provide letters indicating the probation was released, and that the Board can reach out to them. She currently works four days a week between two dental offices.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Smith's petition for withdraw of the probation.

Sammons/Sheline
Motion carried 8-0-0 Findley recuse

D. Abd Al Hadi Kawaiah, DDS, License No. 12014836A

Cause No. 202506-DEN-0004

Re: Order to Show Cause

Parties Present:

Respondent present

Heather Orbaugh, Court Reporter, Accurate Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Annette J. Williamson, D.D.S., (Hearing Officer)

Robert D. Findley, D.D.S.

Richard R. Nowakowski, D.D.S.

Edward Sammons, D.D.S.

Matthew Kolkman, D.D.S.

Crunchy Wells, D.M.D.

Dr. R. Daron Sheline, D.D.S.

Twyla Rader, L.D.H.

Shelley Gregg, Consumer Member

Respondent Witness:

Case Summary: On or about July 3, 2025, the Board voted to issue Dr. Kawaiaha dental license with the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than one year
- Shall make personal appearances before the Board at each meeting while on probation
- Shall have Compliance Officer visits at his practice on a quarterly basis
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the practice of dentistry.

On or about March 3, 2026, the Board issued an Order to Show Cause with concerns that Dr. Kawaiah is not following his probation terms as he is not complying with all statute and rules for the practice of dentistry. Dr. Kawaiah indicated that Dr. Hassain is present to assist with translation. The Board inquired if Dr. Kawaiah would like to continue this matter for an official translator to be arranged, but Dr. Kawaiah and Dr. Hassain stated that they wished to proceed. Dr. Hassain stated that there is currently a pending complaint against Dr. Kawaiah in the state of Vermont; however, it is still under investigation. He stated that Dr. Kawaiah has been transparent with Board regarding the pending investigation and the progress of the case. He stated that the complaint has allegations of improper sale of an x-ray machine, and improper standards of sterilization. He stated that he has not worked in Indiana since November of 2025 and primarily has done teaching. Dr. Hassain stated that Dr. Kawaiah wished to wait until the investigation was complete before notifying the Indiana Board. Dr. Kawaiah provided an overview of his sterilization and cleanliness process, and that the clinic he worked at closed in April 2025. The Board expressed concerns that Dr. Kawaiah failed to disclose this investigation in his new license application to the Indiana Board, and that the concern with the state of Vermont was a standard of care concern. They stated that the Indiana Board would consider a new application if he provided a license in another State with no concerns. Dr. Kawaiah stated that this issue occurred in Vermont, and that the investigation has not yet been concluded. He stated that when he worked in Indiana there were no issues, and that he had support around him.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to revoke Dr. Kawaiah's license on the basis that he deceived the Board by providing fraudulent information to obtain a license and failed to provide standard of care.

Kolkman/Wells
Motion carried 9-0-0

A motion was made and seconded to deny Dr. Kawaiah's request to renew his dental license.

Findley/Sheline
Motion carried 9-0-0

E. Brent Swinney, DDS, License No. 12010095A
Cause No. 2023 ISBD 0003
Re: Order to Show Cause

Parties Present:

Respondent present

Rebekah Hammond, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Heather Orbaugh, Court Reporter, Accurate Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Annette J. Williamson, D.D.S., (Hearing Officer)

Robert D. Findley, D.D.S.

Richard R. Nowakowski, D.D.S.

Edward Sammons, D.D.S.

Matthew Kolkman, D.D.S.

Crunchy Wells, D.M.D.

Dr. R. Daron Sheline, D.D.S.

Twyla Rader, L.D.H.

Shelley Gregg, Consumer Member

Case Summary: On or about August 8, 2023, Dr. Swinney agreed to the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than five years
- Shall complete inpatient treatment with Pine Grove Professional Enhancement Program.
- Shall cease practicing until successful completion of inpatient program and enrollment into the IDA's Well-Being Program.
- Shall enroll in the IDA's Well-Being program, sign a monitoring contract, and comply with all terms of the IDA monitoring contract.
- Submit proof to the Board that he has signed a contract with the IDA Well-Being program.
- Shall have periodic inspections by IPLA Compliance Officers.
- Once practice resumes, shall designate a licensed dentist to serve as a practice monitor, and meet with practice monitor at least once per month. He shall seek Board approval if the Practice monitor changes.
- Practice monitor shall submit monthly reports on Dr. Swinney's status for the first year of the probation, and quarterly reports for the remainder. Reports should cover professional competence, sense of responsibility, work habits, mental attitude, and ability to work with others.
- Shall make personal appearances before the Board at each meeting, and his first appearance shall be with his practice monitor.
- Pay a fee of \$5.00 to be paid into the Health Records and Personal Identifying Information Protection Trust Fund.
- Comply with all statutes and rules of the practice of dentistry

On or about March 3, 2026, the Board issued an Order to Show Cause with concerns that Dr. Swinney is not following the terms of his probation as they have not received his monitoring reports. Dr. Swinney stated that he emailed IPLA, outlining struggles of uploading his reports to the licensing portal, and that he brought copies for the Board to review. Dr. Swinney submitted Exhibits A-D with no objections by the State. The Board discussed the reports with Dr. Swinney

and what he can do to submit his reports if the upload feature does not work. The State noted no concerns with the monitoring reports submitted.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to Vacate the Order to Show Cause and not issue any further sanctions in the matter of Dr. Swinney.

Kolkman/Findley
Motion carried 9-0-0

V. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. PROBATION

1. **Christine Koby, LDH, License No. 13005981A**
Cause No. 2024 ISBD 0001

Ms. Koby will be rescheduled at a later date.

B. APPLICATION

1. **Islam Abd Alraheam (DDS)**

Dr. Abd Alraheam appeared as requested to discuss her application for a dental license. She attended the University of Jordan and completed a Certificate program from the University of Northern Carolina. She obtained an instructor license in the state of North Carolina and has been pursuing advanced dental training in the United States. She stated that she has primarily worked as a Dental Instructor in Jordan and in the United States. Dr. Abd Alraheam's family is moving to the state of Indiana, so she is pursuing a dental license here. The Board discussed her Certificate program. She stated that the program is not CODA accredited. The Board advised that based upon the statute and rules she does not qualify for dental licensure. She may want to review the instructions for a Dental Instructor or Faculty license.

The Board tabled Dr. Abd Alraheam's application at this time.

C. RENEWALS

1. **Michael Bagnoli, DDS, License No. 12008541A**

Dr. Bagnoli did not appear as requested. He will be rescheduled.

2. **Kristin Branam, LDH, License No. 13006346A**

Ms. Branam appeared as requested to discuss an arrest she disclosed on her license renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she completed all requirements for the courts in 2025 and provided an overview of what occurred. She stated that this was an isolated incident and that there have been no other issues.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Branam's application for renewal.

Sammons/Rader
Motion carried 9-0-0

3. Travis Brown, DMD, License No. 12012126A

Dr. Brown appeared as requested with counsel, Laura Iosue, to discuss a malpractice action and an arrest that was disclosed on his license renewal. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. Ms. Iosue provided additional exhibits for the Board to review that show that his arrest was dismissed and the malpractice concern was settled. He provided an overview of the changes that his office implemented to ensure that he does not repeat itself.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Brown's application for renewal.

Nowakowski/Sheline
Motion carried 9-0-0

4. Tabitha Buster, LDH, License No. 13009381A

Ms. Buster appeared as requested to discuss an arrest she disclosed on her license renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she has completed her criminal probation. Ms. Buster stated that she appeared before the Board a few years ago for a separate arrest on her initial license application. The Board discussed concerns with a pattern. She stated that the latest arrest was a "wake up call", and that she is currently working full time at a new work location with a better office environment.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Buster's application for renewal.

Rader/Sammons
Motion carried 8-1-0 Nowakowski opposed.

5. Thomas Closurdo, Jr., DDS, License No. 12011946A

Dr. Closurdo appeared as requested with counsel, Burton Raske, to discuss a malpractice action that he disclosed on his license renewal. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He stated that the malpractice action was settled and provided the Board with an overview of the case.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Closurdo's application for renewal.

Kolkman/Sheline
Motion carried 9-0-0

6. Shane Cope, DDS, License No. 12011052A

Dr. Cope appeared as requested with counsel, Trent Gill, to discuss a malpractice action that he disclosed on his license renewal. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. The Board noted that his statement did not contain details and asked him to provide an overview of what occurred. He went over the procedure and how the client was also treated by an endodontist and oral surgeon after his initial treatment.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Cope's application for renewal.

Sheline/Sammons
Motion carried 9-0-0

7. Jodi Durachta, LDH, License No. 13002464A

Ms. Durachta did not appear as requested. She will be rescheduled.

8. Timothy Gibson, DDS, License No. 12009564A

Dr. Gibson appeared as requested to discuss why he did not disclose a malpractice action on his license renewal. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He gave an overview of the case to the Board and stated he did not report it as he misunderstood the renewal question. He stated that this was his only malpractice incident.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Gibson's application for renewal.

Rader/Wells
Motion carried 9-0-0

9. David Goris, DDS, License No. 12010322A

Dr. Goris appeared as requested to discuss a malpractice action he disclosed on his license renewal. He provided a statement and supporting documents for the Board to review. He stated that his malpractice case was settled and provided an overview of the procedure with the Board. He stated that he did refer the client to an oral surgeon, and he attempted to follow up with the client. Dr. Goris stated that he did have a previous malpractice case in 2017 that was also settled.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Goris' application for renewal.

Wells/Sheline
Motion carried 8-1-0 Sammons opposed.

10. Russell Griffing, DMD, License No. 12011215A

Dr. Griffing appeared as requested to discuss a malpractice action that he disclosed on his license renewal. He provided a statement and supporting documents for the Board to review. He provided an overview of the case and stated that he had referred the client to an oral surgeon. Dr. Griffing stated that he only had one other malpractice suit which was in 1986.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Griffing's application for renewal.

Sheline/Kolkman
Motion carried 9-0-0

11. Darrell Jensen, DMD, License No. 12009735A

Dr. Jensen did not appear as requested. He will be rescheduled.

12. Abd Al Hadi Kawaiah, DDS, License No. 12014836A

His application for renewal was acted on by the Board at the administrative hearing held earlier in the meeting.

13. Tanya Long, DMD, License No. 12011588A

Dr. Long appeared as requested with her counsel, Katherine Lesley, to discuss a malpractice action that she disclosed on her license renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that the case was settled, and she provided an overview of the case to the Board. She stated that she lives in another state along the Indiana border, and she keeps her license active just in case she is needed.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Long's application for renewal.

Rader/Findley
Motion carried 9-0-0

14. Stacey Mitscher, LDH, License No. 13008793A

Ms. Mitscher appeared as requested to discuss an arrest she disclosed on her license renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. Ms. Mitscher stated that she completed a diversion program, including an anger management course. She informed the Board that all terms were completed for the courts in March 2026.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Mitscher's application for renewal.

Sammons/Sheline
Motion carried 9-0-0

15. Roberto Monteagudo, DDS, License No. 12014213A

Dr. Monteagudo did not appear as requested. He will be rescheduled.

16. Olurotimi Ogundipe, DDS, License No. 12013992A

Dr. Ogundipe did not appear as requested. He will be rescheduled.

17. Christina Powers, LDH, License No. 13005725A

Ms. Powers appeared as requested to discuss an arrest she disclosed on her license renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she completed counseling and attended AA meetings. She informed the Board that she works about one day a week and is looking into volunteer work. She stated that she completed all requirements for the courts.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Powers' application for renewal.

Rader/Sammons
Motion carried 9-0-0

18. Adrienne Rupright, DDS, License No. 12010760A

Dr. Rupright appeared as requested to discuss why she did not disclose a malpractice action on her renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She provided the Board with an overview of the case and indicated that the client was referred to a different orthodontist and then referred to an oral surgeon in California. She stated that she misunderstood the renewal questions, and it was not her intention to mislead the Board.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Rupright's application for renewal.

Sheline/Wells
Motion carried 9-0-0

19. Melissa Rush, LDH, License No. 13006172A

Ms. Rush appeared as requested to an arrest she disclosed on her license renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed the circumstances that led to her arrest and stated that she completed one year of criminal probation. All terms have been completed.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Rush's application for renewal.

Rader/Wells
Motion carried 9-0-0

20. O. Craig Shanteau, DDS, License No. 12008143A

Dr. Shanteau did not appear as requested. He will be rescheduled.

21. Elizabeth Simpson, DMD, License No. 12011882A

Dr. Simpson appeared as requested to discuss a malpractice action that she disclosed on her license renewal. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she supervised students and provided an overview of the case for the Board. She stated that the case was settled, and she changed how procedures were completed at the clinic when students were present.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Simpson's application for renewal.

Rader/Sheline
Motion carried 9-0-0

D. REINSTATEMENT

1. Alyson Hilligoss, LDH, License No. 13005993A

Did not appear as requested. Ms. Hillgoss submitted a reinstatement application to renew her license that expired in 2010. She provided a copy of all continuing education hours required and a letter of her practice since the expiration of her license for the Board to review.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Hillgoss' application for reinstatement.

Rader/Sammons
9-0-0

2. Sukhjit Singh, DDS, License No. 12013091A

Dr. Singh appeared as requested to discuss the reinstatement of his license that expired in 2022. He provided copies of all continuing education hours and a letter for the Board to review his practice since the expiration of his license. He stated that a practice in Anderson has extended an offer to him and he needs his license reinstated to practice.

Board Action: A motion was made or seconded to approve Dr. Singh's application for reinstatement.

Kolkman/Sammons
Motion carried 9-0-0

3. Jessica Tanselle, LDH, License No. 13006017A

Ms. Tanselle appeared as requested to discuss the reinstatement of her inactive license at her request in. She provided a copy of all continuing education hours and a letter for the Board to review her practice since she requested inactive statue. She stated that she works in the state of Kentucky and there has been no action against her Kentucky license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Tanselle's application for reinstatement.

Rader/Wells
Motion carried 9-0-0

VI. COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORTS: Mara Catey-Williams, DMD & Paul Nahmias, DDS

There were no compliance reports to review.

VII. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

A. Applications

1. Shikha Puri (DDS)

Dr. Puri's application dental licensure by reciprocity was submitted for review of license equivalency review. Dr. Puri is currently licensed in the state of Vermont. She completed her dental education at Baba Farid University and a residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. The Board noted that the residency was only for a period of one year, which does not make the license equivalent.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Dr. Puri's application for dental licensure.

Kolkman/Sheline
Motion carried 9-0-0

2. Ezza Abdullah (DDS)

Dr. Abdullah's application for dental licensure was submitted for review of their dental education. Dr. Abdullah attended Jordan University of Science and Technology and completed a residency program at the University of Alabama.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Dr. Abdullah's application for dental licensure

Kolkman/

The Board discussed the residency program as it was a specialty residency program. The Board expressed concerns with issuing a general dental license with specialty residency training.

Motion failed for a second.

A motion was made and seconded to deny Dr. Abdullah's application for dental licensure.

Sammons/Findley
Motion carried 8-1-0 Kolkman opposed.

B. Continuing Education

There were no continuing education applications to review.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. Compliance Fund Update

There was no compliance fund report available for review.

B. Update on Proposed Administrative Rules

Dr. Findley provided an update on the proposed administrative rules. He stated that he is currently working with the IPLA counsel on wording and grammar corrections.

C. Senate Bill 180 & House Bill 1254

Ms. Vaught stated that SB 180 and HB 1254 have passed regarding foreign trained dentist being licensed as dental hygienist. She inquired as to what examinations will be required for in order to be licensed. The Board noted that dental national examinations are different from dental hygiene examinations, and that an institute will authorize an individual to take the ADEX or national board examination. For Indiana, the institute is typically the university.

The Board noted that the law stated that the individual must have a degree that is considered

DDS or DMD. They stated that the ECE or WES will note that those degrees are master's degrees, not a doctoral degree. They also noted that the education is primarily dental, not dental hygiene which is a different training.

The Board noted that they understood that the law was to give a licensure pathway for foreign trained practitioners, but they expressed concerns on the wording of the law and unclear requirements.

The Board agreed that applicants will need to show passing of the dental hygiene national board and clinical examinations. They stated that the applicants should be held to the same requirements of any new dental hygiene graduate.

IX. REPORTS

A. Office of the Attorney General

Rebekah Hammond presented the report from the Attorney General's Office. Currently there are 72 open investigation files with an average age of 8.75 months. There has been 1 new litigation case open with an average age of resolution of 35 months.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed a continuing education audit. Cindy noted that notices will go out after June to allow the renewal cycle to finish.

Cindy provided an update on the progress of the license renewal.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and having completed its duties, the meeting of the State Board of Dentistry adjourned at 2:33 p.m. by consensus.