



SPRING 2016

Protecting the public through licensure, enforcement and information

FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Message from the BOARD CHAIR



Robert L. Perdomo III, DMD
Board Chair

Congratulations!
Dentists and Hygienists wrapped up
the 2016 renewal with 91% renewing
on time!

The Florida Board of Dentistry plays a leading role in the State's ever-changing health care environment. This is accomplished through communications with the public, legislature, dental colleges, the dental community, and through taking active roles on national dental

As I begin this new year serving on the Florida Board of Dentistry, I am honored and privileged to be serving it as Chair. This is an exciting time in dentistry and we are also faced with challenges, like licensure portability and reducing our year old disciplinary cases. One of my favorite quotes is from Teddy Roosevelt who said "Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining." And I am not a whiner but am a problem solver. This year, I am focused on the challenges we face in health care regulation by improving processes at the board office level. This will ultimately improve the services we provide to the people of Florida. I have most recently implemented changes in the way we are handling probable cause panel meetings, adding in telephonic calls to move cases through the disciplinary process more efficiently. I am also focused on recruiting more dental inspectors who are responsible for ensuring our sedation permit holders are meeting all requirements.

In February, the board launched its new cloud based agenda used for viewing board meeting materials.

Later this summer, The Florida Department of Health's Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) will launch a new and improved online services portal to better meet the needs of over one million licensed health care professionals and applicants in Florida. Additional information about this system will be forthcoming.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and its new format highlighting some of our achievements. I look forward to the work we will do together in 2016.

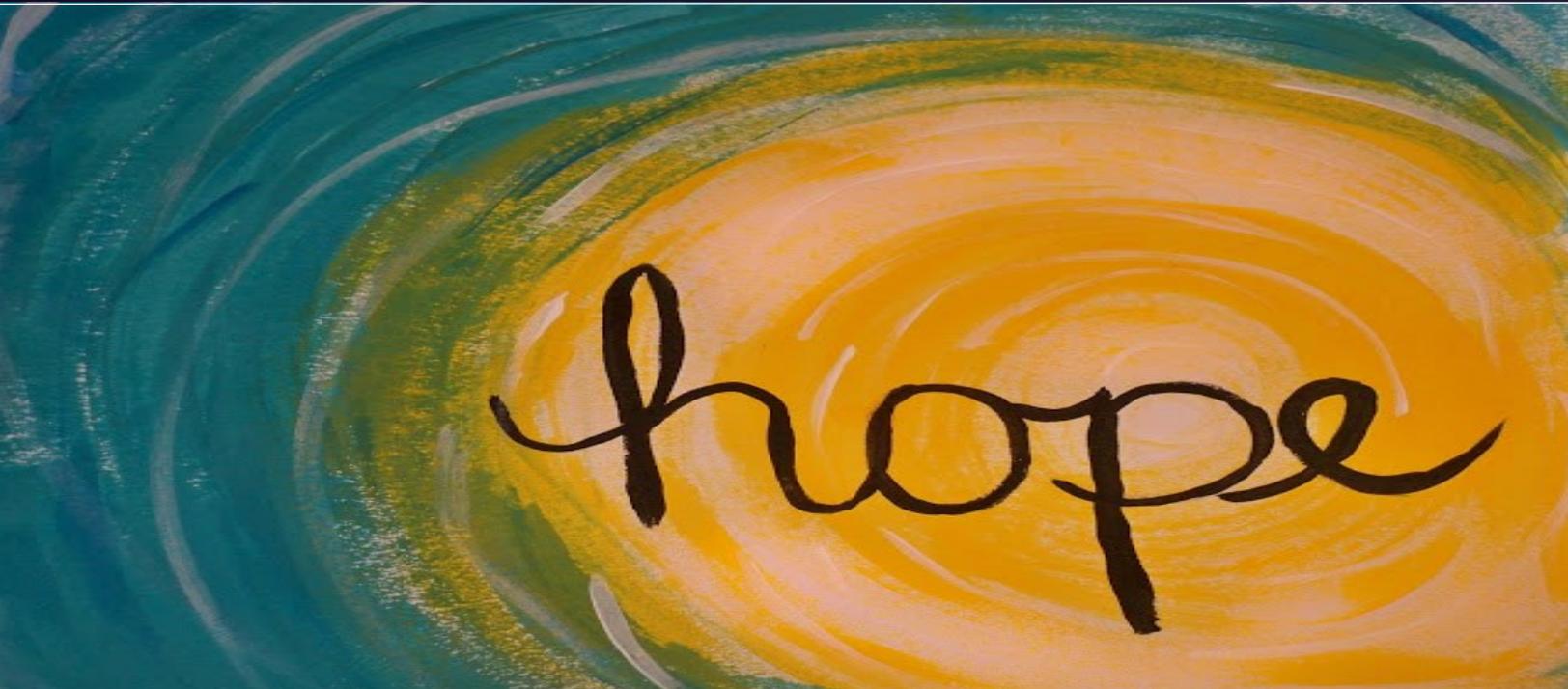


P2 Recognizing
Depression

P3 Enforcement
❖
LECOM Tour

P4 How do I...?
❖
Seeking Consultants

Hope is to wish for a particular event that one considers possible.



hope

Dental profession highest suicide rate fact or myth?

Depression, chronic pain (lower back pain - neck and shoulders pain), long hours of work, work in private clinics alone and managing that, patients problems and insurance problems. All of these are reasons to make dentists in high risk but not all of them deal with that by suicide.

These problems are shared between all medical and health care givers but because dentists are a small fraction of them the results gained from any study tend to be exaggerated.



Recognizing Depression Among Health Care Practitioners

Stress is a common occurrence in everyday lives. Whether it is running late for work because of unforeseen circumstances, trying to find time to practice healthy habits, or not being able to take a break from your hectic schedule, stressors are difficult to avoid. While some form of stress is healthy and even necessary to help us perform and react during times of crisis, prolonged and excessive stress can have damaging effects, leading to burnout or depression.

Those within the health care industry often joined their profession to find compassion and satisfaction from helping others. While that is frequently the case, it's no surprise that at one time or another, health care professionals find themselves working under significant stress. While all health care practitioners can be at risk for burnout as a result of work, those who care for seriously ill patients face a higher risk for diminished personal wellbeing, burnout, moral distress and compassion fatigue. In addition, those caring for terminally ill patients often don't recognize the personal emotional toll it takes, and these unexamined emotions could lead to professional loneliness, loss of professional sense of meaning, loss of clarity about the goals of medicine, cynicism, hopelessness, helplessness, frustration, anger about the health care system, loss of sense

of patients as human beings, increased risk of burnout, and depression.

The problem is that depression doesn't show up on an X-Ray or an MRI and can oftentimes be difficult to detect. So how do we know where healthy stress ends and overload begins? Every person experiences moments of sadness or struggle, however depression is more than just sadness. People with depression may experience a lack of interest and pleasure in daily activities, significant weight loss or gain, insomnia or excessive sleeping, lack of energy, inability to concentrate, feelings of worthlessness or excessive guilt and recurrent thoughts of death or suicide. As health care professionals it is critical to recognize and be aware of these symptoms, both in our personal and professional settings. Failure to recognize these symptoms could not only adversely affect your patients' lives, but your own as well.

To read more, go to [Florida Board of Dentistry's website](#).



The Florida Department of Health is committed to honoring veterans, members of the military and their families.

ASK

Dr. Bower

Q What is Veterans Application for License Online Response System (VALOR)?

A This is an exciting system that provides an expedited licensing avenue for honorably discharged veterans with an active license in another state, with most licensing fees waived.

Q How do I qualify for VALOR?

A In order to qualify, you must apply for the license six months before or six months after your honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces. There is no application fee, licensure fee, or unlicensed activity fee for veterans who qualify for this type of licensure.

To read about Dr. Bower's armed services and VALOR, read the latest issue of [Florida Veteran Health Heroes](#).



ENFORCEMENT

NEW! The Florida Health Care Complaint Portal allows consumers to file a complaint with the appropriate state agency. You will be asked a series of questions to help us identify the nature of your complaint. After you have answered all of the questions, you will see a summary page with instructions on how to file your complaint.

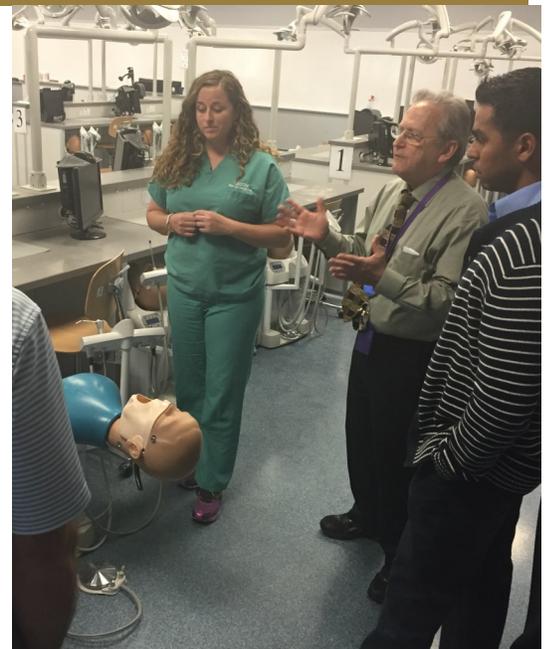
The Department of Health investigates complaints and reports involving health care practitioners regulated by the department and enforces appropriate Florida Statutes.

Action which may be taken against health care practitioners is administrative in nature (e.g., reprimand, fine, restriction of practice, remedial education, administrative cost, probation, license suspension or license revocation).

The Department cannot represent you in civil matters to recover fees paid or seek remedies for injuries. You may wish to consult a private attorney regarding these matters.

Visit www.flhealthcomplaint.gov to file a complaint.

The Board of Dentistry Visits LECOM Dental Students



In February, LECOM graciously invited the Board of Dentistry to their dental school. Members of the board toured the school and met with faculty and students.

Pictured above left, Dr. Perdomo answers questions from the students regarding licensure.

Pictured above right, Dr. Romer, Assistant Dean of Pre-Clinical Education, and third year student, Desiree McMillen, give members a tour of the facility.

GENERAL INFORMATION

How Do I...

Login to My Online Account?

Renew my license? Change my address?

Request a License Verification letter?

Change my name on my license?

Verify my Licensure Status?

Request a Duplicate License?

How do I...Name Change, Address Updates & More

For these and many different Help questions please visit Our Frequently Asked Questions page

Do You Need To Know How...?

To change your name or address on your license? Where to find Online Services to login in to your licensure account? Maybe you need your Password or Login ID? How to renew your license? or Maybe you need a Licensure Verification letter to be sent to another state? For these and many random Help questions please visit our Frequently Asked Questions page at this link:
<http://floridasdentistry.gov/how-do-i/>.

Seeking Consultants with Sedation Permit for Inspections

Working as an inspector for conscious sedation offers a range of benefits from flexible working arrangements, receiving continuing education hours to networking and seeing how others in your profession work in your field. The Board of Dentistry is looking for dentists who hold a sedation permit to serve as dental consultants to perform new and routine inspections on sedation permit holders. Inspectors are compensated, receive travel reimbursement and two hours of continuing education. For more information or to request an application, please email the board at info@floridasdentistry.gov.

The Florida Board of Dentistry meets four times a year. The full Board meetings include disciplinary cases, licensure approvals, correspondence items, committee reports, policy discussion items and other necessary Board action.

NEXT Board Meeting

May 20, 2016
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville
225 East Coastline Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Contact Us

Give us a call or email for more information about our services

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8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST
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