



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Board of Dentistry

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**TO:** Governor Tina Kotek and The Commission on Indian Services

**FROM:** Stephen Prisby, OBD Executive Director

**DATE:** December 9, 2024

**SUBJECT:** OBD Report per ORS 182.164 & 182.166

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The Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) is reporting on its activities in compliance with ORS 182.166(3) related to its interaction and collaboration with the Tribes and tribal communities in Oregon. The OBD is a small agency with 7.5 full-time employees, and 10 volunteer Board Members. The Board licenses dentists, dental therapists and dental hygienists along with regulating and administering all provisions of the Dental Practice Act. The Executive Director is the Native American Affairs Coordinator.

Most of the recent interaction with the tribal communities centers on HB 2528 (2021), which is commonly referred to as the Dental Therapy Bill. This historic legislation was signed by Governor Kate Brown on July 19, 2021. The OBD is now responsible for regulating and licensing dental therapists. The OHA's Dental Pilot Project #100 paved the way for this work and subsequent legislation. Dental Therapists have been regulated since summer 2022. There are 23 active Dental Therapists in Oregon at the time of this report. Four of those are affiliated directly with the Tribes.

I have reached out to all 9 Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon and the Native Portland Area Indian Health Board regarding the OBD's on-going work on dental therapy rules and policies. This year I also reached out to share that there will be three Board Member openings in the spring of 2025. I indicated to the Tribes that they are welcome to address the Board and are placed on regular meeting agendas.

The OBD has a standing committee to make recommendations on new and amended rules for dental therapy. This standing committee includes three people with experience in dental pilot project #100 and have strong ties to the tribes either as members, or working for one of the tribes. All Board meetings, rules hearing and public meeting packets are emailed to the Tribes through our Listserv.

A policy named the "OBD Tribal Relationship & Cooperation Policy" was shared with the Tribes for feedback before the Board adopted it at its February 2022 Board Meeting. All new staff and Board members are given a copy of the policy and annually the policy is distributed to all board members and staff. Annually the policy is referred to all as well.

I attended the July 23 & 24, 2024 Tribal – State Government Annual Summit in Canyonville, Oregon. It was a tremendous experience, and the Governor's remarks and support was so enlightening. I look forward to attending the next summit and continue supporting the Governor's Tribal Affairs Director as well. Please contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,  
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OBD Executive Director &  
Native American Affairs Coordinator  
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*The Mission of the Oregon Board of Dentistry is to promote quality oral health care and protect all communities in the State of Oregon by equitably and ethically regulating dental professionals.*