



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 13, 2023

SUBJECT: OBD Report per ORS 182.164 & 182.166

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 8 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.

Most of the recent interaction with the tribal communities centered 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 17 active Dental Therapists in Oregon at the time of this report. Four of those are affiliated directly with the Tribes.

As Executive Director, 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 communicate the upcoming (spring 2024) Board member openings with three Board members terming out off the board.

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 committee meetings are public and recent meeting packets and minutes are regularly updated on the OBD Website.

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.

I had planned to attend the Dec 5 - 6, 2023 Tribal – State Government Annual Summit in Canyonville, Oregon, but it was cancelled. I look forward to attending the next summit and work with the Governor's new Tribal Affairs Director, Shana McConville Radford, as well. Please follow up regarding any questions about the OBD's work or how we can assist the Commission in a more informed and collaborative way.

Sincerely,
Stephen Prisby
Stephen.prisby@obd.oregon.gov

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.