

**CONNECTICUT STATE DENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
June 11, 2025**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Peter Katz, DMD, Chairperson  
Sarita Arteaga, DMD  
Leslie Bumpus, DDS, MPH, MA  
Monica Cipes, DMD  
Lief E. Washer, DMD  
Deborah Dodenhoff, RN  
Craig Fontaine, Esq.  
Mark Longobardi, DMD  
Ross J. Sanfilippo, DMD

**DPH / AAG STAFF PRESENT:**

Kevin Hansted, DPH Legal Counsel to the Board  
Elizabeth Bannon, Esq., Assistant Attorney General  
Jonelle Newton, DPH Staff Attorney  
Linda Fazzina, DPH Staff Attorney  
Miriam Miller  
Ryan Burns, DPH Deputy Legal Director  
Betty J. Rozario, Board Liaison

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**CALL TO ORDER.**

Chairperson Dr. Peter Katz called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**MATTERS**

- A. The Chairperson moved to change the order of the agenda addressing the reinstatement application before oral argument. The motion was approved on consent.
- B. A. Paul Spinella Counsel for Kristin Wendrow Helma, (“Respondent”) suggested a change to the order of the agenda. No action was taken on the request.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Sarita Arteaga, DMD moved to approve January 8, 2025, minutes. Deborah Dodenhoff, RN seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by acclamation.
- B. Craig Fontaine, Esq. moved to approve March 12, 2025, minutes. Ross J. Sanfilippo, DMD seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by acclamation.

**CHAIR UPDATES**

- A. Discussion of whether Dental Assistants should be permitted to take Patient’s X-Ray without the doctor being Present and/or Out of Office.
- B. Discussion regarding email received from Christian Andresen suggesting changes coming to the sedation permits.

## **PROPOSED CONSENT ORDER**

- A. Christian J. O'Connor, DMD Petition No. 2021-751 Joelle Newton, DPH Staff Attorney  
James Biondo, Respondent's Counsel

Mark Longobardi, DMD, moved to accept proposed Consent Order. Craig Fontaine, Esq. seconded the motion. The Consent Order was approved unanimously.

- B. In re: Nidhi Ganatra, DDS Petition No. 2022-186 Joelle Newton, DPH Staff Attorney  
William Catalina, Respondent's Counsel

Craig Fontaine, Esq recused himself from the vote citing prior representation. Ross J. Sanfilippo, DMD, moved to accept the proposed Consent Order. Mark Longobardi, DMD seconded the motion. Deborah Dodenhoff, RN raised an issue with the stipulations of the Course Work required and Medical History. Joelle Newton, DPH Staff Attorney, notified the Board of all the Stipulations in the Consent Order so the Board will make an informed vote. The Consent Order was approved unanimously.

- C. Chukym C. Alexis-Johnson, DDS Petition No. 2021-1190

Joelle Newton, DPH Staff Attorney  
Thomas Anderson, Respondent's Counsel

Craig Fontaine, Esq., moved to accept proposed Consent Order. Ross J. Sanfilippo, DMD seconded the motion. Craig Fontaine, Esq. suggested preventative restrictions be imposed to prevent future issues from happening. Counsel for the Department and the Respondent agreed to the proposed revision to the Consent Order. The revised Consent Order was approved unanimously.

- D. Ardita Topalli Petition No. 2023-670 Linda Fazzina, DPH Staff Attorney  
Ardila Topalli, Respondent's Counsel

Ross J. Sanfilippo, DMD, moved to accept the proposed Consent Order. Craig Fontaine, Esq. seconded the motion. The Consent Order was denied unanimously.

## **REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION**

- A. Leif Washer, DMD Petition No. Deborah M. Brown, Health Program Associate

Peter Katz, DMD, Chairperson, called for a vote on the reinstatement of Dr. Leif Washer, DMD. The Reinstatement was accepted unanimously by acclamation.

## **ORAL ARGUMENTS**

A. Kristin Wendrow Helma, DMD

Petition No. 2024-87

Linda Fazzina, DPH Staff Attorney

A Paul Spinella, Respondent's Counsel

Oral argument was held concerning Respondent's motion for a more definite statement of charges.

After argument was held, Peter Katz, DMD moved to deny Attorney Spinella's second request for more definitive State of Charges be provided Mark Longobardi, DMD, second the motion. The motion to deny Respondent's request was approved unanimously.

## **ORIENTATION**

A. DPH Deputy Legal Director, Ryan Burns, presented a Board Member Orientation Training.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Sarita Arteaga, DMD, moved to adjourn the meeting. Ross J. Sanfilippo, DMD, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Dr. Peter Katz, DMD, Chairperson