American Board of Dental Public Health

INTEGRATED 1950

INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

Sponsoring Organization:
American Association of Public Health Dentistry

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E. Joseph Alderman, DDS, MPH
Executive Director

Central Office
827 Brookridge Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306-3618
Telephone: 404.876.3530
E-mail: abdph@comcast.net

E-mail: ejalderman@comcast.net
I. ORGANIZATION

The American Board of Dental Public Health was incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado in July 1950. The Board was organized in accordance with the Requirements for Approval of Examining Boards in Dental Specialties of the American Dental Association’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure. Dental Public Health was recognized formally as a dental specialty by the American Dental Association in October 1950. Subsequently, the American Board of Dental Public Health was officially designated as the national examining and certifying agency for the specialty by the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association in October 1951 and was recertified in 1986, 2001 and 2012. The Board is a not-for-profit corporation. The Directors of the Board receive neither salaries nor compensation for services to the Board.

II. PURPOSES OF THE BOARD

The principal purposes of the Board, as defined in its Articles of Incorporation, are:

A. To protect and improve the public’s health by the study and creation of standards for the practice of dental public health in all of its aspects and relationships;

B. To grant and issue dental public health certificates to dentists who have successfully completed the prescribed training and experience requisite for acquiring the special knowledge and ability needed for the practice of dental public health; and

C. To ensure continuing competency of Diplomates.

III. DEFINITION OF THE SPECIALTY

Dental public health is the science and art of preventing and controlling dental diseases and promoting dental health through organized community efforts. It is that form of dental practice that serves the community as a patient rather than the individual. It is concerned with the dental health education of the public, with applied dental research, and with the administration of group dental care programs, as well as the prevention and control of dental diseases on a community basis. Implicit in this definition is the requirement that the specialist have broad knowledge and skills in public health administration, research methodology, the prevention and control of oral diseases, and the delivery and financing of oral health care.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

The term Board-eligible describes the status of a candidate whose application and supporting documents have been reviewed and approved by the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH). Requirements for eligibility to be examined by the Board are as follows:

A. Moral and ethical standing in the dental profession satisfactory to the Board.

B. Graduation from a school of dentistry accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or from a Canadian dental school with accreditation recognized by the Commission.

C. Graduates of schools from other countries must possess equivalent educational background.
Professional experience and advanced education in public health that shall include:

A. Successful completion of at least two years of advanced educational preparation for the practice of dental public health (See section on Educational Preparation); and,

B. One or more years of full-time experience in the practice of dental public health sciences, which may include administration, teaching, research, or clinical practice related to dental public health.

Hence a total of three to four years of advanced education and experience in public health is required before a candidate can become Board eligible.

Members of the Board are not authorized to provide informal opinions about the eligibility of candidates. The Board shall make a determination of eligibility only after reviewing all information contained in a candidate’s application. Each candidate shall comply with the Board’s regulations in effect for the year in which the examination is held, regardless of the filing date of the original application.

Applicants declared not to be Board-eligible may reinstitute their applications within three years of the previous filing date without paying an additional application fee. Applicants declared to be Board-eligible must present themselves for the examination within a period of five years to retain their Board-eligibility.

Candidates who lose their eligibility as a result of not taking and passing the Board examination within five years may request one additional five-year period of eligibility upon payment of an additional $300.

Although not required, and as appropriate, the Board considers membership in the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, the sponsoring organization of the ABDPH, the American Dental Association, the American Public Health Association, the Hispanic Dental Association, the National Dental Association, and the Society of American Indian Dentists, to be highly desirable.

V. EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

The primary reason for the educational requirements is to ensure that individuals are prepared for an effective career in all facets of dental public health practice. Another important reason is to enable candidates to successfully complete an examination that measures competences within the specialty.

The basic guide governing the Board’s evaluation of a candidate’s preparation is the requirement of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure of the American Dental Association that a candidate successfully complete two years of an advanced accredited program specifically designed for the study of dental public health. The requirement of two years of advanced preparation can be satisfied by:

A. Master-level or doctoral-level graduate degree in an area related to the practice of dental public health, the course content of which shall include biostatistics, epidemiology, health care policy and management, environmental health, and behavioral sciences, followed by a residency in dental public health accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

B. Two academic years of study in a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation that leads to a master-level or doctoral-level graduate degree in an area related to the practice of dental public health, the course content of which shall include biostatistics, epidemiology, health care policy and management; environmental health; and behavioral sciences.

C. Satisfactory completion of two or more years of advanced education in an area related to the practice of dental public health from an institution outside the United States, followed by the
satisfactory completion of a residency program in dental public health accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The advanced education program’s content shall include biostatistics, epidemiology, health care policy and management, environmental health, and behavioral sciences.

The Board will grant credit toward satisfying training requirements for applicants whose degree programs did not include course work in biostatistics, epidemiology, health care policy and management, environmental health, and behavioral sciences after the candidate submit documentation of satisfactory completion of one graduate level academic course work in each of these five core areas. Such coursework must be completed prior to successful completion of the Commission on Dental Accreditation-accredited dental public health residency training program.

Graduate academic study programs must be accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education at the time the degree is conferred.

VI. DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESIDENCY

Dental Public Health Residency Programs are approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. They must be at least 12 months full-time or the equivalent in part-time. Part-time residencies may not exceed twice the length of a full-time residency. See American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, www.aaphd.org, link to Education under Residency Programs.

The applicant’s experience should include planned instruction, observation and active participation in a comprehensive, organized public health program that includes training on all aspects of dental public health.

VII. APPLICATION AND FEES

The ABDPH Application-Eligibility-Certification-Full Examination will be accepted at any time but must be received no later than September 15th of the year prior to that in which a candidate wishes to take the examination. See the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, www.aaphd.org, link to the ABDPH Web Page under ABDPH Application Certification-Full Examination.

The total fee for application and examination is $800, which is paid in two installments. The fee for application of eligibility is $300 and is due at the time of submitting this application. The fee for application is payable to ABDPH and should be mailed to the Executive Director, ABDPH, 827 Brookridge Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. The application must be signed by the applicant and submitted electronically as a Word document and a portable document format (pdf) file along with copies of supporting documentation to the Executive Director, abdph@comcast.net. Send electronic pdf copies of supporting documentation including the applicant’s curriculum vitae, the applicant’s certificates or degrees in dentistry and public health, certificate of a completed residency in dental public health (when a residency serves as a portion of the training), and any other necessary documentation. The ABDPH will review your application and qualifications and notify you of your eligibility no later than September 24th.

An eligible candidate must submit separate portable document format (pdf) files for each of the two project reports by October 1st, the year before the candidate wishes to take the examination. In addition, a fee of $500 payable to ABDPH must be mailed to the Executive Director (abdph@comcast.net). The two project reports constitute the first part of the examination.
A maximum of 12 candidates will be accepted for the full examination. Eligible candidates applying after the first 12 candidates will be placed on a “waiting list” and will be notified in case of a cancellation. Once declared Board Eligible, a candidate must take and pass the examination within a five-year period.

Applications for the Written Examination only will be accepted at any time but must be received by December 1st of the year prior to that in which the applicant wishes to take the examination. The application must be signed by the applicant and submitted electronically as a Word document and a portable document format (pdf) file along with copies of supporting documentation to the Executive Director, abdph@comcast.net. The application fee of $100 payable to ABDPH must be mailed to the Executive Director. See American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, www.aaphd.org, link to the ABDPH Web Page under ABDPH-Application-Written-Examination-Only.

A candidate may take the written examination prior to applying for board eligibility when he/she is almost finished with the dental public health program; however, candidates who do not apply for full eligibility within five (5) years of successful completion of the written examination must retake the written examination. A pre-Board eligible candidate who fails the written examination (score below 60%) can retake the written examination up to two times with payment of the $100 payable to ABDPH for each attempt when taken as part of the regularly scheduled examination. The total number of times a pre-Board eligible candidate can take the written examination is three.

Requests to take the written exam at an alternative time and site approved by the Board must have a strong justification for consideration by the Board, such as passing all parts of the full examination except the written examination. Candidates will be required to pay a $200 fee plus a $100 off-site fee, for a total fee of $300. The written examination may be retaken no earlier than six months after the original examination. The examination must be proctored by a Diplomate, who has been approved by the Board, and who is not the candidate’s residency supervisor. Contact the Executive Director, ABDPH for additional information.

VIII. PROCEDURE AND FEE FOR CANCELLATION OF ABDPH EXAMINATION

A. Full exam: If candidate pays the full $800 for the full exam:
   1. The $300 application fee to establish eligibility, due by September 15th is valid for 5 years.
   2. If candidate postpones the full examination after September 15th the candidate must inform the Executive Director of the intent to postpone the exam as soon as possible. Barring any extenuating circumstances beyond the candidate’s control, submission of an additional exam fee of $500 will be required when the candidates decides to take the examination.

B. Written exam: If candidate pays the fee to take the written and does not do so, the candidate forfeits the $100 fee.

C. The Board always reserves the right to change the fee structure(s) and the content of the ABDPH Examination(s). The candidates taking the ABDPH Examination are required to abide by the current rules and procedures of the Examination Year. Fees partially offset the costs of processing application, the examination and certification. However, the fees do not cover the expenses of the examination.
IX. ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE

A registration fee is due upon passing the certification examination, and an annual registration fee is due January of each year to remain an active Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH). The annual registration fee for the ABDPH is $175.00 (Regular Fee), or one of three voluntary categories of $205.00 (Silver), $260 (Gold) and $335.00 (Diamond).

As a certifying Board, we are required by the American Dental Association to collect annual fees from each Board Diplomate. If the annual registration fee is not paid, the Diplomate will be declared not in good standing by the Board of Directors. Lack of good standing results in the following actions taken by the Board: 1) The Diplomate’s name will not appear on American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, www.aaphd.org, link to the ABDPH Web Page under ABDPH Diplomates; 2) the Diplomate’s name also will not be included in the list the Executive Director sends to the American Dental Association’s Council on Dental Education and Licensure each year; 3) verification requests on your status as a Board Diplomate will include “not in good standing” in the reply. In order to be reinstated to active membership, the Diplomate must provide the annual registration fees that are owed, and any additional reinstatement fees.

X. VERIFICATION OF BOARD STATUS

The American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH) requires a $25 fee per verification payable to the ABDPH. The request should be submitted in writing and must include a copy of the general release of information that has been signed or an electronic signature by the dentist whose Board status is being verified. Electronic verification may be requested.

If you want to use a credit card, e-mail Sandi Steil, Membership Coordinator, American Association of Public Health Dentistry (ssteil@associationcentral.org) for assistance. Please copy the Executive Director if you use a credit card.

The verification request and payment should be sent by U.S. mail or electronic mail to: E. Joseph Alderman, D.D.S., M.P.H., Executive Director, ABDPH, 827 Brookridge Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306-3618. Additional information may be obtained on the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, www.aaphd.org, link to the ABDPH Web Page under Verification of Active Diplomates.

XI. EXAMINATION

The examination will be held annually in various locations as determined by the Board. Examination sites are selected one year in advance and posted on the American Association of Public Health Dentistry website, AAPHD.org.

Applicants will be notified of the specific dates and site of the examination at least 60 days in advance. The examination is usually given in April or May Thursday through Saturday before the National Oral Health Conference.

The option of offering the written exam separately from the remainder of the examination is available. The written examination is scheduled on the last day of the examination, Saturday, to allow candidates to attend the National Oral Health Conference that follows. Those candidates who would like to receive their written exam score must submit a written request to the ABDPH Executive Director within 60 days of completing the examination.

Each component of the examination is scored separately and the scores are averaged for a final score. A satisfactory score must be achieved for the total examination and for each component. Details of the components of the examination can be obtained from the Executive Director, or downloaded on American
Upon request, a candidate may receive from the Executive Director the results of his or her separate and total examination scores. Those candidates who would like to receive their exam scores must submit a written request to the ABDPH Executive Director within 60 days of completing the examination.

XII. REEXAMINATION

Candidates who fail the total examination shall be accepted for one reexamination by the Board and be required to pay a re-examination fee of $500. The Board, based on the scores for each section, decides what would be the requirements for reexamination for candidates with an overall failing average score (lower than 70%). Candidates who retake one section of full exam): $300 (Includes Section 1: Written Project Reports, Section 2: Oral examination 1 on Project Reports, Section 3: Oral examination 2 on Assigned Problem, Section 4: Written examination on General Knowledge. Candidates who retake two or more parts is the same as retaking the full exam and pay $500. Candidates who fail to pass the examination twice shall be required to submit satisfactory evidence to the Board of additional formal training or supervised field experience in dental public health before they can be readmitted for examination. Candidates, who apply for examination, after completion of such additional training, shall be required to pay the total $800 application and examination fee. Candidates who retake the written examination only pay $200.

A pre-Board eligible candidate who fails the written examination only can retake the written examination up to two additional times with a $100 application fee. Thus, the total number of times a pre-Board eligible candidate can take the written examination is three.

Requests to take the written exam at an alternative time and site approved by the Board must have a strong justification for consideration by the Board, such as passing all parts of the full examination except the written examination. Candidates will be required to pay a $200 fee plus a $100 off-site fee, for a total fee of $300. The written examination may be retaken no earlier than six months after the original examination. The examination must be proctored by a Diplomate, who has been approved by the Board, and who is not the candidate’s residency supervisor. Contact the Executive Director, ABDPH for additional information.

XIII. CERTIFICATION

Candidates who successfully complete the examination will be issued ten-year time limited certificates, signed by the Directors of the Board that recognize special knowledge and ability in dental public health. Persons certified by the Board shall be designated as Diplomates of the American Board of Dental Public Health (DABDPH).

XIV. RECERTIFICATION

A. Background

The American Board of Dental Health (ABDPH) recognizes that continued competency in the specialty requires life-long learning and that this should be designed to enrich past educational and training activities. To promote this, the ABDPH has implemented a recertification program for its Diplomates. The goal of the recertification is to assure the ability of the Diplomates to provide the highest quality of service to the public and the profession. The program became effective in the year 2000. Diplomates certified 2000 or after are initially certified for ten (10) years and can maintain this certification through payment of prescribed annual registration fees. To be eligible for recertification, Diplomates must comply with the provisions of the mandatory continuing education requirement.
This program is voluntary for those individuals who are Diplomates of the ABDPH as of January 1, 2000. The ABDPH strongly urges all Diplomates to participate in the program. This voluntary approach recognizes the previously established rights of certified Diplomates, but still promotes the attainment of continuing competency for all Diplomates in dental public health. All Diplomates are required to pay the annual registration fee in order to remain in good standing. Further, the moral and ethical precepts required for initial certification and annual registration must be maintained. Recertification information can be downloaded from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, www.aaphd.org, link to the ABDPH Web Page under ABDPH Continuing Education Record. Contact the Executive Director, ABDPH (abdph@comcast.net).

B. Requirements for recertification

The overall qualifying standard for recertification is for Diplomates to acquire at least 100 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) in dental public health over a ten-year period. The program is summarized below:

1. Beginning January 1, 2000, recertification by the Board requires completion of an average of ten (10) hours annually of continuing education from an approved CERP or a public health organization. Scholarly activity, such as manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at scientific meetings and providing continuing education courses and lectures can be counted toward these ten (10) hours.

2. The 10-Year Recertification Fee is $150 payable to ABDPH and should be mailed to the Executive Director, ABDPH, 827 Brookridge Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30306.

3. Diplomates are responsible for maintaining their own records including keeping copies, documentation and summaries of their CEUs forms to document compliance with the Recertification Process.

4. The Board has a voluntary recertification program for all Diplomates certified prior to January 1, 2000. These Diplomates are requested to seek voluntary recertification within ten (10) years beginning in 2010.

5. Upon review of the Diplomates’ recertification credentials, the American Board of Dental Public Health will issue a supplemental certificate that will remain valid for ten (10) years.

6. The recertification process includes the following steps: (All forms are submitted electronically)

7. Complete the ABDPH Recertification Application-20XX, where XX is the year of recertification

   a) Complete the document ABDPH Summary Report of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the 10-year period ending in 20XX. This form is available from at www.aaphd.org link to the ABDPH Web Page.

   b) Complete Continuing Education Units (CEUs) records and documentation.

   c) Each Candidate should complete a Continuing Education Reporting form on an annual basis at the time of annual registration. This form provides lists the activities and the number of credits requested for each activity. Although this program relies
on a self-report mechanism of continuing education activities, Diplomates must be able to produce acceptable documentary evidence upon request.

d) Prepare portable document files (pdf) of supporting documentation for your CEUs earned in the ten years ending in 20XX.

8. An ABDPH Standards and Recertification Committee (SRC) will audit Diplomates. The SRC consists of three active Diplomates, and two members of the ABDPH, one current Director of the Board and the Executive Director. The SRC will review the number of credits and report it to the ABDPH. The SRC will audit 10% of Diplomates to be recertified. Send electronic copies of CEUs to the Executive Director, ABDPH only if informed that you are one of the ten (10) percent to be audited.

9. Following approval of the recertification application and the SRC audit, the Board reviews the information and approves individual recertification. The Executive Director, ABDPH will issue, on behalf of the Board, a new ten-year certificate which will expire 10 years from recertification.

C. Guidelines for continuing education credits

Acceptable continuing education shall mean learning activities that contribute to maintaining or enhancing competency in dental public health. The following types of activities are acceptable for credits:

1. Attendance at and/or delivery of a formal continuing education course. Documentation or letters of completion from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, International/American Association for Dental Research, American Public Health Association, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, and other recognized national and international organizations who have institutionalized continuing professional development programs related to the competency objectives in dental public health are acceptable.

2. Documentation or letters of completion from other sponsors of continuing education relevant to the field of dental public health are acceptable provided the number of hours of activities can be directly linked to the dental public health competency statements (J Public Health Dent 1998; 58 (Suppl):114-18).

3. Authorship of publications related to dental public health. A publication is defined as a book, a chapter of a book, or a paper published in a professional journal. Publications of manuals, workshop proceedings, and background papers are also acceptable. The acceptable number of credits will vary from 5 to 10 depending upon the nature of the publication.

4. Attendance at formal lectures, symposia, workshops and conferences relevant to the field of dental public health. This activity will be given credit provided the material presented is organized around and directed toward identified competency statements. The number of credits will be equal to the number of hours attended.

5. Completion of individualized continuing education instruction. Individualized instruction is defined as a course of study that is structured and organized toward accomplishing competency in dental public health. A method of providing feedback to the learner on performance must be incorporated. Documentation of the number of credits must be available for audit.

6. Learning activities that are repeated on a periodic basis will be given credit only once in a ten-year period. The routine performance of teaching duties in an undergraduate or
D. **Appeal process**
Diplomates may appeal the report of the SRC relative to the continuing education credits. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of the ABDPH with necessary documents within sixty (60) days of the notification. The appeal should clearly identify the areas of disagreement and provide the supporting documents. The appeal will be reviewed by the Board and responded to within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the appeal.

E. **Failure to comply with the recertification requirements**
The ABDPH, at its discretion, may issue a conditional recertification to a Diplomate who fails to meet the continuing education requirements but who agrees to make up any deficiencies and take any additional credits which the ABDPH may require.

A Diplomate who is notified of the denial of recertification for failure to submit evidence satisfactory to the ABDPH may be subject to disciplinary actions pursuant to policies of the ABDPH. Failure to meet the continuing education requirements will be deemed to constitute a gross departure from the tenets of sound public health practice. In such situations, the Board has the power to revoke certificates.

XV. **APPEAL MECHANISM**
A candidate who fails the certification process has the right to appeal as provided for in American Board of Dental Public Health Policy and Procedures for Appeal found on the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, [www.aaphd.org](http://www.aaphd.org), link to the ABDPH Web Page under ABDPH Application-Eligibility-Certification-Full Examination.

XVI. **LISTING OF DIPLOMATES**
A listing of persons to whom certificates have been issued by the Board is prepared periodically and placed on file in the office of the Director of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure of the American Dental Association. Copies of the list are available upon request from the Executive Director of the Board, or download from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Home Page, [www.aaphd.org](http://www.aaphd.org), link to the ABDPH Web Page under ABDPH Diplomates.

XVII. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**
Diplomates who are retired from the practice of dental public health may submit an application for life membership found on the AAPHD Web Page, [www.aaphd.org](http://www.aaphd.org), link to the ABDPH Web Page under Application Life Membership, or from the Executive Director, ABDPH. The Diplomate will apply to the ABDPH for Life Membership, in accordance with and subject to the procedures and regulations of the Board. The applicant must be in good standing and all annual registration(s) must be paid up to the moment of seeking life membership, and have maintained the moral and ethical precepts of the specialty. It is the responsibility of the applicants to inform the Executive Director, ABDPH of any changes in contact information, including preferred address, phone, and e-mail. The ABDPH will review and if Life Membership is approved, Certificate of Life Membership will be issued.

A. The following Diplomates are eligible for Life Membership:

1. Diplomate must be completely retired from the practice of dental public health and has been an active Diplomate for 20 or more years. (No application fee).
2. Diplomate must be completely retired from the practice of dental public health, has been an active Diplomate for at least 10 or more years, and is at least 65 years of age. (No application fee).

3. Diplomate completely has a combination of the following factors: retired from the practice of dental public health, less than age 65, less than 10 years as an active Diplomate. These Diplomates are eligible for life membership by paying a one-time fee of $100.00.

4. Diplomate retired from the practice of dental public health, but practicing no more than 200 hours per year (0.1 FTE). He/She can become eligible for life membership by paying a one-time fee of $500.00.

B. Benefits of Life Membership:
1. Listed on ABDPH website.
2. Emailed ABDPH Newsletter(s).
3. Pay no Annual Registration Fees.
4. Mailed or emailed the Invitation and Announcement to attend Diplomates Annual Dinner and Business Meeting at same cost as other Diplomates, and
5. Other benefits that the ABDPH deems appropriate.

XVIII. AAPHD FOUNDATION’S LOTZKAR FUND

On April 28, 2003, at the 53rd Annual American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH) Diplomates Meeting and Dinner, ABDPH President Caswell Evans recognized Dr. Stanley Lotzkar on his retirement after 21 years of exemplary service as Executive Secretary of ABDPH and as a competent leader and educator who guided many Diplomates and Directors. Dr. Evans announced the creation of the Lotzkar Fund, honoring Dr. Lotzkar’s 21 years of dedicated service to the ABDPH and Phyllis Lotzkar’s support over those many years.

The Lotzkar Fund is used solely to advance the mission and objectives of the American Board of Dental Public Health and is administered by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Foundation.

Funding criteria for projects are:
1. To support development of new initiatives of the Board;
2. To support maintenance of standards and competency in dental public health; and
3. To support curriculum development in dental public health.

All donations can be made to: AAPHD Foundation Lotzkar Fund, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62703. Tel: 217-529-6941

XIX. POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION/HARRASSMENT

The American Board of Dental Public Health does not condone or accept discrimination or harassment based on age, gender, race, creed, sexual orientation, place of education, or country of origin or residence, against candidates or Board Diplomates. The ABDPH will formally consider all complaints filed in writing and signed by any candidate or Board Diplomate made to any Director of the Board including the Executive Director. The ABDPH will take necessary actions to remediate validated claims.

XX. CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES
The American Board of Dental Public Health complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) by ensuring that persons with disabilities have physical access to the testing facilities used by the Board. Further, the Board will administer the examination in a manner that can accommodate a candidate with disabilities. The application forms provide space for indicating a disability and the Board solicits suggestions as to how the disability can be best accommodated.

XXI. ABDPH CONTACT INFORMATION

E. Joseph Alderman, DDS, MPH
Executive Director, ABDPH
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Phone: 404-876-3530
Email: abdph@comcast.net