

Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition

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The Commission's 2023–24 Board of Trustees liaison is Dr. David Manzanares (First Vice President).

Areas of Responsibility as Set Forth in the *Bylaws or Governance and Organizational Manual of the American Dental Association*

As stated in Chapter IX, Section 30.C. of the ADA *Bylaws*, the duties of the Commission shall be to:

- a. Formulate and adopt requirements, guidelines and procedures for the recognition of continuing dental education providers.
- b. Approve providers of continuing dental education programs and activities.
- c. Provide a means for continuing dental education providers to appeal adverse recognition decisions.
- d. Submit an annual report to the House of Delegates of this Association and interim reports, on request.
- e. Submit an annual budget to the Board of Trustees of the Association.

Key Accomplishments and Outcomes: Agency Programs, Projects, Results and Success Measures

The Commission is an ADA agency with independent authority to administer the ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP). In 2023-2024, the Commission has accomplished the following.

Initiative/Program: Streamline and modernize the ADA CERP Recognition Standards

Success Measure: Adoption of revised ADA CERP Standards

*Replaced Gerrity, Kathlene, 2023, Connecticut

**Replaced Silva, Renato, 2022, Pennsylvania

***Replaced Quezado, Nicole M., 2023, Pennsylvania

Target: October 1, 2024

Range: September 27, 2024 – April 24, 2025

Outcome: A draft of the revised ADA CERP Standards was published in June 2024 and the communities of interest invited to comment. Stakeholder feedback will be considered by the Commission at its meeting in September 2024 at which time the Commission may adopt the revised Standards or undertake further revisions in response to feedback received.

Initiative/Program: Launch online portal for ADA CERP application and review processes

Success Measure: The ADA CERP application process will be configured in Armature Solutions Corporation's Fabric, an online, cloud-based management software for streamlining accreditation, and certification processes, supporting online submissions and reviews. The Commission anticipates that this will reduce the amount of time providers will need to prepare and submit ADA CERP applications, improved provider satisfaction with the application process, as well as a reduce staff time needed to process applications and reviews.

Target: User testing of platform completed by March 2025, with online application published in June 2025 for use in the ADA CERP Spring 2026 application cycle.

Range: If user testing can be completed by November 1, the implementation timeline could be accelerated, with a pilot of the online application launched in January 2025 for use in the Fall 2025 ADA CERP application cycle.

Outcome: At the time this report was prepared in June 2024, a master services agreement had been executed for use of Armature Solutions Corporation's Fabric software, and preparations were being made to migrate data from the current database to Fabric. Discussions regarding configuring the platform to meet ADA CERP needs have begun. A projected timeline for project implementation has not been developed at the time this report was written. The project has experienced delays over the last year for a variety of reasons, including limited ADA staff availability.

Initiative/Program: ADA CERP participation levels

Success Measure: Rebuild number of ADA CERP recognized providers after implementation of revised ADA CERP Eligibility criteria in July 2023 and withdrawal of 8.5% of providers no longer eligible to participate in the program.

Target: Regain 2022 level of participating providers by November 2025.

Range: Number of ADA CERP recognized providers in November 2025 ranges from 98%-101% of 2022 levels.

Outcome: As of June 2024, the number of ADA CERP recognized providers is 96% of the total number approved in 2022, before the revised ADA CERP Eligibility Criteria took effect.

Emerging Issues and Trends

The Commission oversees ADA CERP, designed to recognize providers of continuing education (CE) that meet standards for continuing dental education, promote continuous quality improvement in CE, and help dental professionals meet CE requirements for re-licensure. At the time this report was prepared in June 2024, there were 482 ADA CERP recognized providers; this number includes 34 providers based outside the United States and Canada, and 40 providers approved through Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education. An additional 112 providers were approved by state dental societies and national specialty societies through the CERP Extended Approval Process (EAP). The current list of [ADA CERP recognized providers](#) is published on the Commission's website.

CERP recognized providers reported that they offered a combined total of over 42,700 unique CE activities in 2022, the most recent year for which data is available.

Modernizing and streamlining the ADA CERP Recognition Standards: The goal of continuing dental education is to improve the knowledge, skills and ability of the dental professional to provide the highest quality of service to the public. In keeping with this, and the Commission's mission to serve the public and the profession by promoting excellence in CE, the Commission has undertaken a comprehensive revision of the CERP Standards to emphasize the CE provider's role in developing education that has an impact on professional performance or improvements in oral health care, and that is based on the best available evidence.

As part of the revision process, the Commission has reviewed feedback from surveys and meetings with stakeholders regarding the CERP Standards and application processes. The Commission has also learned from accrediting agencies for continuing education in other health professions, including Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education, identifying commonalities and best practices in accreditation and continuing professional education.

As a result of this review, the Commission has proposed reorganizing the 14 current CERP Standards into five new Standards reflecting the purpose, planning, implementation and assessment processes in which providers of continuing education engage. This consolidation has eliminated overlap between the Standards, and highlights those attributes most relevant to the development and delivery of effective continuing education.

A draft of the revised CERP Standards has been published and the communities of interest invited to provide feedback to be reviewed at the Commission's meeting in September.

Interprofessional Continuing Education. ADA CERP is in its fifth year as an associate member of [Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™](#). Joint Accreditation offers providers of continuing education in the health professions the opportunity to be simultaneously accredited to provide continuing education in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physician assisting, optometry, psychology, social work, registered dietitians, physical training and dentistry through a single, unified application process. As of June 2024, a total of 40 providers of interprofessional CE have requested ADA CERP recognition through Joint Accreditation. The goal of this collaboration is to help support healthcare professionals coordinate patient care as part of interprofessional teams.

Responses to House of Delegates Resolutions

There were no House of Delegates resolutions directed to the Commission in 2023.

Self-Assessment

In accordance with Resolution 1H-2013, the Commission conducted a self-assessment in 2024 through an electronic survey of Commission members and discussion during the Commission's May 2024 meeting. As part of the process, the Commission reviewed pertinent data regarding ADA CERP participation levels, financial reports, and feedback regarding ADA CERP from external stakeholders.

The Commission believes that it is effectively meeting its *Bylaws* responsibilities. The Commission has the appropriate subject matter expertise, structure and meeting frequency to operate effectively. Overall, the Commission believes that it conducts its work in an informed, considered manner, supported by appropriate strategic discussions.

Over the course of the last few years the Commission has achieved financial stability, with revenues from ADA CERP program fees exceeding budget and covering all direct and most indirect expenses. The number of providers participating in the program continues to grow. A year after a one-time reduction in the number of ADA CERP recognized providers in 2023, when commercial interests were no longer eligible to participate in the program following a change to ADA CERP eligibility criteria, the total number of providers has rebounded to 96% of 2022 levels.

The Commission has identified improvements to the ADA CERP application and review processes as a priority for achieving greater efficiency for the Commission and CE providers. The Commission's strategic plan, adopted in 2023, outlines work the Commission is currently engaged in to simplify the ADA CERP Recognition Standards and build a streamlined application and review process. The self-assessment process affirmed the Commission's commitment to ensuring that ADA CERP Standards and processes remain current and effective in order to support the profession and protect the public, and that the application process itself is not perceived as a barrier to CE providers participating in the program.

Policy Review

There are currently no ADA policies related to the Commission or CERP that the Commission has been charged with reviewing in accord with Resolution 170H-2012, Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (*Trans*:2012:370).

Commission Minutes

For more information on recent activities, see the Commission's [minutes](#) on CCEPR.ADA.org.