

Council on Dental Education and Licensure

Thomas-Moses, Donna, 2022, Georgia, chair, American Dental Association
 Miles, Maurice S., 2023, Maryland, vice chair, American Association of Dental Boards
 Avery-Stafford, Cheska, 2024, Wisconsin, American Dental Association
 Bennett, Donald P., 2025, Louisiana, American Association of Dental Boards**
 Divaris, Kimon, 2024, North Carolina, American Dental Education Association
 Hangorsky, Uri, 2022, Pennsylvania, American Dental Education Association
 Hardesty, Willis Stanton, Jr., 2022, North Carolina, American Dental Association
 Johnson, Jarod W., 2022, Iowa*
 Keith-Coble, Shandra L., 2025, Alabama, American Dental Education Association
 Lepowsky, Steven M., 2023, Connecticut, American Dental Education Association
 Mousel, Barbara L., 2024, Illinois, American Association of Dental Boards
 Nickman, James D., 2023, American Dental Association
 Nielson, David L., 2022, Alaska, American Association of Dental Boards
 Otomo-Corgel, Joan, 2023, California, American Dental Association
 Tanguay, Jason A., 2025, Montana, American Dental Association
 Terry, Bruce R., 2024, Pennsylvania, American Dental Association
 Usman, Najia, 2024, Ohio, American Dental Association

**New Dentist Member*

**The American Association of Dental Boards appointed Dr. Donald P. Bennett to complete the term of Dr. Karen Lanier.

Hart, Karen M., director
 Strotman, Meaghan D., senior manager
 Puzan, Annette, manager

The Council's 2021-22 liaisons include: Dr. Chad R. Leighty (Board of Trustees, Seventh District) and Mr. Colton Cannon (American Student Dental Association).

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

As listed in Chapter VIII, Section K.4. of the ADA Governance and Organizational Manual, the areas of subject matter responsibility for the Council shall be:

- a. Dental, advanced dental and allied dental education and accreditation;
- b. Recognition of dental specialties and interest areas in general dentistry;
- c. Dental anesthesiology and sedation;
- d. Dental admission testing;
- e. Licensure;
- f. Certifying boards and credentialing for specialists and allied dental personnel; and
- g. Continuing dental education.

Advancing ADA Strategic Goals and Objectives: Agency Programs, Projects, Results and Success Measures

Objective 7: Improve overall organizational effectiveness at the national and state levels.

Objective 9: The ADA will be the preeminent driver of trusted oral health information for the public and profession.

Initiative/Program: On behalf of the ADA, monitor and comment on matters of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR), and the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (NCRDSCB).

Success Measure: Submit comments by established deadlines to CODA, CCEPR, and NCRDSCB.

Target: Meet comment deadlines set by CODA, CCEPR and NCRDSCB.

Range: January through July

Outcome: All comment deadlines met.

The Council transmitted comments to CODA on proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Programs in advanced education in general dentistry, general practice residency, dental anesthesia, oral medicine, orofacial pain, and dental public health. Specifics on these matters are noted in the Council's January and June 2022 [meeting minutes](#).

Objective 7: Improve overall organizational effectiveness at the national and state levels.

Objective 9: The ADA will be the preeminent driver of trusted oral health information for the public and profession.

Initiative/Program: Support the licensure reform efforts in accord with the ADA Comprehensive Policy on Dental Licensure.

Success Measures:

1. Support the development of licensure compact legislation and advocate for changes to state dental practice acts, rule and regulations regarding licensure.
2. Manage the ADA's involvement with the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL).
3. Continue to support the implementation and promotion of non-patient clinical licensure examinations, including the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE).
4. Monitor the Dental Board of California's (DBC) implementation of its portfolio-style licensure examination.

Target: Reports on these matters at January and June Council meetings; ongoing updates via electronic communications to members and reports at relevant standing committee conference calls.

Range: Ongoing

Outcome: At the time this report was written, this initiative was on plan.

The ADA has had policy on dentist and dental hygienist license portability for over 20 years. In 2018, the House of Delegates adopted proposed revisions to the numerous licensure policies creating a single, comprehensive policy which includes urging dental boards to consider participating in licensure compacts and establishing a common core of credentials for granting licensure. Consistent with the ADA Comprehensive Policy on Dental Licensure (*Trans.2018:341*), and as reported previously to the House of Delegates, the Council has been monitoring the use and implications of licensure compacts among states for dentists and dental hygienists. In October 2020, the Council received notice that the U.S. Department of Defense was making grant funds available to assist professions in the development of new interstate licensure compacts. The scope of the grant included technical assistance from the Council on State Governments (CSG) in drafting model interstate compact legislation, developing a legislative resource kit and convening a national meeting of state policymakers to introduce the compact. In January 2021, the Council voted to submit a grant application. In March, the Council was informed that the U.S. Department of Defense selected dentistry and dental hygiene to develop an interstate compact for licensing portability. A Technical Assistance Group (TAG), with potential candidates suggested by ADA and chosen

by the CSG, was established, meeting five times in late 2021 and early 2022. The Group provided guidance to the CSG and its Compact Document Team (CDT), composed of five to eight state officials, stakeholders, and issue experts. This group crafts the actual compact legislative language based on the recommendations of the TAG. It is anticipated the CDT will complete the draft legislative language during the summer of 2022 and then circulate the draft compact legislation this fall to states and stakeholder groups, including the ADA. The CSG has emphasized that all stakeholder suggested revisions will be reviewed by the CDT for possible incorporation into the compact document before it is finalized. The TAG will then do a final review of the draft legislative language, and if approved, release the model language to states for consideration. It is anticipated that the release date will be in early 2023, completing Phase I of the compact development and implementation process.

Established in 2018 by the ADA, ADEA and ASDA, the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL) is comprised of national and state organizations, institutions and programs representing dentistry, dental education, dental specialties, dental hygiene and non-profit groups working to advance access to oral health care and modernize the licensure process for dentistry and dental hygiene. In support of CMDL Strategic Plan goals, Coalition leadership and staff met with state dental associations and dental schools in several states, and made presentations at two national meetings. As of June 2022, the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure had increased its membership to over 118 organizations. In spring 2022, the Council urged all state dental associations to join the CMDL.

The Council continues to support ADA policy calling for the elimination of patients from the clinical licensure examination process. As of June 2022, 46 states (including the District of Columbia) accept the results of manikin-based licensure examinations in addition to single-encounter patient-based examinations on either a temporary or permanent basis. The Council also supports the JCNDE DLOSCE, a non-patient alternative to the traditional patient-based single encounter clinical licensure examination, made available to state dental boards in June 2020. As of June 2022, Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Washington and Oregon were accepting results of the DLOSCE as either partially or completely fulfilling the clinical examination requirement for licensure. The JCNDE continues to collect validity data in support of the DLOSCE. One study demonstrated positive correlations between candidates' performance on the DLOSCE and their clinical performance during dental school. Results have been shared with dental boards and will be detailed in the 2022 DLOSCE Technical Report. The Technical Report will be published on the [JCNDE website](#) following the JCNDE's annual meeting in summer 2022. More information about the DLOSCE is posted on the [JCNDE website](#).

The Council maintains licensure information on the [ADA website](#). The [Dental Licensure Dashboard](#) houses the Initial Licensure Requirements map, the Licensure by Credentials map and the CE Requirements and Renewal map. The maps provide state-by-state information on the requirements for obtaining and maintaining licensure and will continue to highlight COVID-19 related changes as long as relevant. This year Council staff collected data specific to faculty licensure and are exploring the possibility of developing another map for the Dashboard. Originally launched in 2020, the Dashboard continues to expand based on the needs of members and the public.

Per a directive of the 2013 House of Delegates (*Trans.2013:327*), the Council monitors the Dental Board of California's (DBC) implementation of its portfolio-style licensure examination and reports information annually to the House of Delegates. Since November 5, 2014, individuals may qualify for dental licensure in California on the basis of passing the Portfolio Examination while enrolled in a dental school approved by the DBC. As of March 31, 2022, the Dental Board of California has issued less than 90 dental licenses via the portfolio pathway, since its inception in 2014.

Objective 7: Improve overall organizational effectiveness at the national and state levels.

Objective 9: The ADA will be the preeminent driver of trusted oral health information for the public and profession.

Initiative/Program: Fulfill responsibilities to and assignments by the ADA House of Delegates.

Success Measures:

1. Per the five-year review cycle, consider and possibly recommend revision to the continuing education, licensure and recognition policies assigned to the Council for review.
2. Address Resolution 108H-2021: National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards Requirements for Recognition Review and report findings to the 2022 House of Delegates.
3. Consider the annual reports of the Dental Assisting National Board and the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology.
4. Provide governance oversight to the Department of Testing Services regarding the administration of the Dental Admission Test (DAT) and Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT) and the development of the admission test for dental hygiene programs (ATDH).

Target: Submission of proposed revision to current ADA policy and responses to assigned resolutions to the 2022 House of Delegates; submission of comments to and collaboration with other ADA Councils on policy matters; action on DANB and NBC reports; set direction, establish policy and oversee research related to the DAT, ADAT and ATDH.

Range: May through August

Outcome: On plan

Emerging Issues and Trends

The Council is not aware of any new, significant trends or emerging issues not already being addressed by the Council.

Responses to House of Delegates Resolutions

Resolution: 46H-2021 – Special Care Dentistry Association

46H-2021. Resolved, that the findings of the feasibility study conducted by the Council on Dental Education and Licensure be provided to the Special Care Dentistry Association for its consideration in pursuing an accreditation process and accreditation standards for advanced education programs in special needs dentistry by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and be if further

Resolved, that the Special Care Dentistry Association be urged to collaborate with advanced dental education programs and their sponsoring institutions to enhance the current scope and depth of instruction related to special needs dentistry and to encourage the establishment of more training programs in special needs dentistry.

The Council transmitted Resolution 46H-2022 and findings of the feasibility study to the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) for its consideration in pursuing an accreditation process and accreditation standards for advanced education programs in special needs dentistry by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Further, SCDA was urged to collaborate with advanced dental education programs and their sponsoring institutions to enhance the current scope and depth of instruction related to special needs dentistry and to encourage the establishment of more training programs in special needs dentistry. The SCDA acknowledged receipt of the report and informed the Council of its intent to move forward in collaboration with its communities of interest in implementing the resolution.

Resolution: 7H-2021 – Continuing Education Market Research

47H-2021. Resolved, that market research be conducted to learn more about the continuing education interests of practicing dentists related to managing and treating patients with special needs, i.e., people with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, complex medical problems, significant physical limitations, and the vulnerable elderly.

The ADA Department of Continuing Education in the Division of Conferences and Continuing Education reported to CDEL on market research underway in 2022 to learn more about the continuing education interests of practicing dentists related to managing and treating patients with special needs, i.e., people with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, complex medical problems, significant physical limitations, and the vulnerable elderly. CDEL and its Committee on Continuing Education will collaborate with the Department of Continuing Education in future course development, based on the results of the market research.

Resolution: 49H-2021 - Proposed Policy: Patients with Special Needs (*Trans.2021:XX*)

49H-2021. Resolved, that the following policy be adopted:

Patients with Special Needs

The dental profession's continued ability to effectively provide dental care for America's special needs population is dependent on sustaining a strong educational foundation in this area. The ADA encourages efforts to maintain and expand the availability of courses and programs at the predoctoral, advanced and continuing educational levels that support practitioners in providing dental treatment to patients whose medical, physical, psychological, cognitive or social situations make it necessary to consider a wide range of assessment and care options. These individuals include, but are not limited to, people with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, complex medical problems, significant physical limitations, and the vulnerable elderly. The ADA encourages dental practitioners to regularly participate in continuing education in this area.

The Council transmitted the new policy statement to the Special Care Dentistry Association.

Resolution: 108H-2021 – National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards Requirements for Recognition Review

108H-2021. Resolved, that the Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists, currently used by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards, be reviewed by the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure in 2022, rather than 2023, and be it further

Resolved, that CDEL report its findings and any proposed revisions to the Requirements for Recognition to the National Commission and to the 2022 ADA House of Delegates.

The Council has considered Resolution 108H-2021 and taken several actions in response. The full response including a proposed resolution is contained in a separate report to the 2022 House of Delegates.

Self-Assessment

The Council is next scheduled to conduct a self-assessment in 2024.

Policy Review

In accordance with Resolution 170H-2012, Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (*Trans.2012:370*), the Council reviewed the Association policies listed below related to continuing education, licensure and recognition. The Council determined the following should be maintained at this time:

- Criteria for Recognition of Interest Areas in General Dentistry
- Recognition of Operative Dentistry, Cariology and Biomaterials
- Promotion of Continuing Education
- Policy on State Dental Board Recognition of the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition
- Policy on Licensure of Dental Assistants

The Council reviewed the “Policy Statement on Continuing Dental Education” and the policy “Titles and Descriptions of Continuing Education Courses,” concluding that the two statements should be merged into one. Further, the Council is recommending that the policy titled “Policy Statement on Lifelong Learning” and the policy titled “Lifelong Continuing Education” be merged. These proposed actions are presented in separate reports to the 2022 House of Delegates.

The Council also recommends that the policy titled “Acceptance of Formal Continuing Medical Education Courses Offered by ACCME Accredited Providers” be amended by adding the phrase, “and Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.” The Council’s resolution calling for amendment to the policy is presented in a separate report to the 2022 House of Delegates.

Council Minutes

For more information on recent activities, see the Council’s [minutes](#) on ADA.org.