

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
APRIL 28, 2020 COUNCIL CALL**

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting of the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) was conducted via conference call and was called to order by Dr. Phillip Fijal, CGA chair, at 8:32 PM EDT on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

ROLL CALL

Members: (District 1) Dr. Mark Desrosiers, 2020; (District 2) Dr. Raymond Miller, 2023; (District 3) Dr. John Reitz, 2021; (District 4) Dr. Mark Vitale, 2022; (District 5) Dr. Deborah Bishop, 2020; (District 6) Dr. Leon Stanislav, 2022; (District 7) Dr. Matthew Messina, 2021; (District 8) Dr. Phillip Fijal, 2020 chair; (District 9) Dr. Lisa Knowles, 2020; (District 10) Dr. Emily Willett, 2021; (District 11) Dr. John Hisel, 2022; (District 12) Dr. Matthew Cohlma, 2022; (District 13) Dr. John Blake, 2023; (District 14) Dr. David White, 2021; (District 15) Dr. Matthew Roberts, 2023; (District 16) Dr. Mark Crabtree, 2023; (District 17) Dr. Zack Kalarickal, 2020; (New Dentist Member) Dr. Adam Shisler, 2020.

Liaisons: (District 4) Dr. George Shepley, Board of Trustees; Dr. David Watson, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee; Dr. Richard Stevenson, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Ms. Kate McPherson, American Student Dental Association; Ms. Janette Sonnenberg, Alliance of the American Dental Association.

Council staff: Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi, director, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Mr. Robert Burns, manager, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Mr. Christian Miller, senior project assistant.

Other ADA staff present for the phone call: Mr. Chris Tampio, director, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Megan Mortimer, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Natalie Hales, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Jennifer Fisher, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Dr. Jane Grover, director, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Ms. Kelly Cantor, manager, Community-Based Programs; Ms. Elaine Barone, senior project assistant, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Mr. Paul O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, State Government Affairs.

DISCUSSION

The Council discussed the policy developed by the Veterans Workgroup led by Dr. Vitale. This Workgroup was empaneled by the Council to address the lack of veteran specific policy within ADA policy.

Dr. Vitale spoke about the need for developing a policy on veterans. Only around 8% of veterans are eligible for dental care through the VA. There are many programs that provide charitable dental care to veterans, but these programs are often not coordinated and do not provide a dental home to the veterans. It is the desire of the work group to submit a broad based policy to express ADA support for those persons and/or organizations providing needed dental care to veterans and ADA support for VA administrative services in assisting veterans obtain dental care.

The ADA had previously drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the VA on increasing access to oral health care services for veterans. The VA is also developing a pilot program to connect veterans to pro bono or discounted dental care.

Using this understanding as a base, the Workgroup set out to develop a broad policy.

The Council discussed the proposed policy.

MOTION

A motion was made to change the title of the first subheading to Resources for Veterans Ineligible for VA Dental Care.

- **Resolved**, the first subheading will be titled: Resources for Veterans Ineligible for VA Dental Care.

The Council discussed the motion.

Upon vote, the Council adopted the motion.

MOTION

A motion was made to remove the subheadings from the resolution to keep it more in line with existing ADA policy. The first subtitle, Resources for Veterans Ineligible for VA Dental Care, would be made the title of the policy as a whole.

- **Resolved**, the subheadings will be removed, and the title of the policy will be: Resources for Veterans Ineligible for VA Dental Care.

The Council discussed the motion.

Upon vote, the Council adopted the motion.

MOTION

A motion was made to discuss and vote on the amended policy.

The Council discussed the policy resolution.

- **Resolved**, the resolution is amended to read:
RESOURCES FOR VETERANS INELIGIBLE FOR VA DENTAL CARE

Resolved, that the ADA supports the federal authorization of administrative support resources within the VA Medical Centers to assist Veterans to identify and utilize dental services offered by federally qualified health centers, not for profit dental care facilities, and volunteer dental professionals.

Resolved, that the ADA supports the work of component and constituent dental associations, dental organizations, and societies to develop new programs with outreach strategies to assist veterans with unmet dental treatment needs.

Resolved, that the ADA encourages and supports the work of ADA member dentists to provide dental care to veterans and to serve as a resource in providing dental homes for veterans.

Upon vote, the Council adopted the motion.

Dr. Fijal thanked the Workgroup and staff for their efforts.

The meeting adjourned on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 9:13 PM EDT.