

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP)  
January 9-11 2020**

The Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) met on January 9-11 at the ADA Headquarters building. The following is a summary of major actions taken by the Council.

**Report of the Subcommittee on Access and Advocacy:** Dr. Carol Morrow, Subcommittee Chair shared the discussions of the subcommittee including:

1. Audit issues faced by pediatric dentists in Nebraska recently with the significant burden of addressing the needs of underserved children while being reviewed by auditors with unclear knowledge of professional standards of care.
2. An update on the Culture of Safety progress as a response to the 2019 House of Delegates resolution 55H. Dr. Paul Casamassimo, Safety Workgroup member, shared news on the safety focused activities of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry as well as moving the general dentistry community further into that space.
3. Need for a Chief Dental Officer at CMS for program clarity and planning purposes.

**Report of the ADH Prime Subcommittee:** Dr. David Bradberry, Subcommittee Chair, presented the progress of key areas of focus after reviewing the Prime Subcommittee Charter with the Council:

1. The Action for Dental Health legislation, signed into law in December 2018, was reviewed as it contains language which allows grant opportunities for state associations with previous CDC or current HRSA grantees.
2. Dr. Mark Humenik, Chair of the Community Dental Health Coordinator Transition Team, updated the Council on current schools, graduates and trainees of the programs across the country.
3. Progress made by the ED Referral Workgroup, was presented by Dr. Shailee Gupta, Workgroup Chair, noting the success and number of members attending the webinars presented on this topic.
4. An overview of the Action Plan 2020-2024 of National Advisory Committee on Health Literacy in Dentistry (NACHLD) was provided to the Council by Dr. Nicole Holland, Vice Chair of NACHLD. The plan includes steps to assist ADA in becoming a model of a health literate organization, that the tripartite structure will develop education and training of current and future dentists as well as dental team members and ADA will utilize health literacy to establish and maintain collaborative relationship with key stakeholders.

Upon vote, the following resolution was approved by the Council:

**Resolved**, that the 2020-2024 Action Plan of the National Advisory Committee on Health Literacy in Dentistry be approved.

5. Dr. Bradberry brought forward the ADA's *Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel* language used to describe CDHC duties and scope for the pilot program. To update this policy, the Prime Subcommittee made recommendations for the consideration of the full Council.

Upon vote, the following changes were approved by the Council for transmittal to the 2020 ADA House of Delegates for its consideration:

**Resolved, that the ADA Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel (Trans.1996:699; 1997:691; 1998:713; 2001:467; 2002:400; 2006:307; 2010:505) be amended as follows:**

***Glossary***

Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC): ~~an individual trained in an ADA pilot program as a community health worker with dental skills through the ADA licensed curriculum as a dental trained professional with community health worker skills.~~ Their aim is to improve oral health education and to assist at-risk communities with disease prevention. Working under the supervision of a dentist, a CDHC helps at-risk patients improve their preventive oral health through education and awareness programs, navigate the health system and receive care from a dentist in an appropriate clinic licensed dentists. ~~CDHCs also perform limited clinical duties, such as screenings, fluoride treatments, placement of sealants and temporary restorations and simple cleanings, CDHCs also perform limited clinical duties only as allowed by their State Practice Acts, such as screenings, fluoride treatments, and sealant placement until the patient and receive care from a dentist or dental hygienist.~~ Upon graduation, they will work primarily in public health and community settings like clinics, schools, ~~churches, faith based settings,~~ senior citizen centers, and Head Start programs in coordination with a variety of dental providers, including clinics, community health centers, the Indian Health Service and private practice ~~dentists dental offices.~~

**Report of the Prevention Subcommittee:** Dr. Shamik Vakil, Subcommittee Chair, shared the following news with the Council:

1. There was considerable discussion regarding community water fluoridation issues and the agencies who have expressed interest in articles published this year which prompted responses from the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC).
2. Drs. Karin Arsenault and Kristi Golden provided a report from the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee. They updated the Council on the preparation for the activities of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Community Water Fluoridation which will be a Symposium observed in conjunction with the 2020 Management and Presidents Elect Conference.
3. The artwork for 2020 National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) poster will feature a tribute to the 75<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Community Water Fluoridation. The artist, a student at the Columbia College School of Graphic Art, designed an imaginative fantasy of tap water flowing through pools. The Council was pleased to learn that there are over 20,000 posters which have already been shipped for the February observance.
4. Vaping was discussed as the Board issued interim policy on the topic and CAAP staff currently serve on an internal ADA workgroup. School based care and sealants remain a top priority for the Subcommittee.

Upon vote, the following resolution was approved by the Council:

**Resolved,** that CAAP establish a Sealant Advisory Committee (SAC) to advise the ADA Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) on matters pertaining to dental sealant placement, promotion, and school based sealant programs.

**Special Orders of Business:**

Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, ADA Executive Director, updated the Council on *Common Ground*, the Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 which has more focus towards overall health of the public in addition to helping members optimize their professional opportunities. She reviewed each of the Strategic Plan objectives, paying particular attention to the ones which are public facing with the focus of having the ADA as the preeminent driver of trusted oral health information. Dr. O'Loughlin also covered the importance of improving overall organizational effectiveness while enhancing the member digital experience accompanied by constructing a Clinical Data Registry.

Ms. Katherine Merullo, manager, Public Affairs and Advocacy Communications, gave the Council an overview of the various types of media such as paid, earned, shared and owned. She described the strategies such as search engine marketing (SEO) used in positive promotion of community water fluoridation. Katherine also updated the Council on the digital campaign "Oral Health is Health" which promoted various aspects of Action for Dental Health initiatives.

Military veterans who are also current Tufts dental students, Mr. Brent Mullen and Mr. Keith Nyugen, updated the Council members an overview of their program, "Service with a Smile". This program engages in various activities for veterans and Gold Star families to promote oral health and address other needs such as food insecurity. Dr. Marcelo Araujo, ADA Chief Science Officer, awarded them ADA Foundation Bud Tarrson recognition as the top student community program .

Ms. Robin Murray of Illinois Catholic Charities and Ms. Suzanne Tannis of Volunteer for Dental Care in Muskegon Michigan gave presentations on how their programs have reduced dental visits in hospital Emergency Departments. Both of their presentations highlighted community stakeholder collaboration prompting additional interested discussion from Council members.

**CAAP Council Members:**

Dr. Richard A. Stevenson, chair, FL  
Dr. Jessica Meeske, vice-chair, NE  
Dr. Karin Arsenault, MA  
Dr. R. David Bradberry, GA  
Dr. Paul Casamassimo, OH  
Dr. Chris Delecki, WA  
Dr. Kristi Golden, AR  
Dr. Shailee Gupta, TX  
Dr. Irene Hilton, CA  
Dr. Mark Humenik, IL  
Dr. Carmine LoMonaco, NJ  
Dr. James Mancini, PA  
Dr. Robert Margolin, NY  
Dr. Carol Morrow, CO  
Dr. Michael Richardson WV  
Dr. Shamik Vakil NC  
Dr. Jehan Wakeem, MI  
Dr. Andrew Welles, WI (New Dentist Member)

**Council Liaisons:**

Dr. Billie Sue Kyger, Ohio, (ADA Board of Trustees, Seventh District)  
Mr. Greg Mitro, Tampa, Florida (Alliance of the American Dental Association)  
Ms. Sydney Shapiro, New York, New York (ASDA Representative)  
Dr. Philip Figal, IL (CGA chair)  
Dr. David White, NV (CGA vice chair)