

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL ON ADVOCACY FOR ACCESS AND PREVENTION**

July 8-9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) was called to order by Dr. Jessica Meeske, CAAP chair, at 11:33 am, Central time, Thursday July 8th.

ROLL CALL

Members: Dr. Karen Arsenault, (2024) (remote), First District;; Dr. Stephen Cochran,(2025), Seventeenth District, Dr. Chris Delecki (2024), Eleventh District, Dr. Kristi Golden, (2022), Twelfth District; Dr. Shailee J. Gupta, (2022), Fifteenth District; Dr. Irene V. Hilton, (2021 (remote)), Thirteenth District; Dr Kathryn Kosten, (2025),Eighth District; Dr. James Mancini, (2024), Third District; Dr. Robert Margolin, (2024), Second District, Dr. Rodney Marshall, (2025),Fifth District; Dr. Jessica A. Meeske, Chair,(2021) Tenth District; Dr. Carol Marie Morrow, (2021), Fourteenth District; Dr. Michael L. Richardson (2022), Sixth District, Dr. ,Elizabeth Simpson (2025), Seventh District; Dr. Shamik S. Vakil, (2022), Sixteenth District and Dr. Jehan Wakeem, (2021), Ninth District

Liaisons: Dr. Brett Kessler, ADA Board of Trustees, Seventh District; Mr. Greg Mitro, Alliance of the American Dental Association; Dr. Brooke Fukuoka, Committee on the New Dentist, Ms. Joelle Chen, ASDA Representative, Dr. David White, Council on Government Affairs (CGA) Chair (virtual)

Council Staff: Mr. Michael Graham, senior vice president, Government & Public Affairs; Dr. Jane S. Grover, director; Dr. Steven P. Geiermann, senior manager, Access, Community Oral Health Infrastructure and Capacity (remote); Ms. Kelly Cantor, manager, Preventive Health Activities; Ms. Tooka Zokaie, manager, Community Based Programs; Mr. Carlos Jones, Jr., Action for Dental Health coordinator, and Ms. Elaine Barone, Council coordinator.

Other ADA Staff in attendance for all or portions of the meeting, include: Dr. Diptee Ojha, Senior Manager, Office of Assessment and Quality Improvement, Mr. Chad Olson, Director, State Government Affairs, Mr. Paul O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, Department of State Government Affairs; Matt Rossetto, legislative liaison, Department of State Government Affairs, Mr. C. Michael Kendall , Senior Associate General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Ms. Ericka Hoef, manager, Integrated Marketing and Communications

Special Guests: Rear Admiral Tim Ricks, Assistant Surgeon General, Mr. Allen Morgan, Executive Director, National Rural Care Association, Dr. Sandy Schneider, Associate Director of Clinical Affairs, American College of Emergency Physicians, Mr. Michael Shimmens, Executive Director, 3 R. Net

ADA Disclosure Policy: Prior to conducting any business, Dr. Meeske referenced the ADA Disclosure Policy printed in the agenda and called for disclosures. No disclosures were made.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Calendar: The Agenda and Consent Calendar was approved

Report of the Senior Vice President: Mr. Michael Graham updated the Council on the legislative climate in Congress at the present time. He stressed that the major issue for the ADA now on Capitol Hill now is Medicaid which prompted much discussion from the Council members on various issues related to the federal aspect of the program as well as state implementation.

Report of the Director: The Council was made aware of their ability to share the Monthly Updates within their Districts

Report from ASDA: Dr. Joell Chen reported that there are now 23,000 members across 66 chapters. A major new action of focus is the advocacy effort which supports many initiatives including administration of vaccines. Contour, the magazine journal of ASDA, featured an article recently on the Culture of Safety which is also the topic of an ASDA resolution moving forward at their House of Delegates.

Report of Trustee Liaison: Dr. Brett Kessler, ADA Board liaison, shared insights from the Board and encouraged the Council members to leverage their four years on the Council to make a difference, particularly with the "Social Contract" that the profession enjoys. He mentioned the impending retirement of Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin and that a dental school dean, Dr. Ray Cohlma, will take over in November as the new ADA Executive Director.

Report of the Alliance of the ADA: Mr. Greg Mitro described the Alliance as the family support system of ADA membership. He covered the various committees and efforts of the Alliance and stressed the importance of membership. A mention was made of the Wellness programs offered and a request for participation in the "Nose to Toes" Alliance project at Smile Con.

Report of the Council on Governmental Affairs: Dr. Dave White and Director Roxanne Yaghoubi detailed updates regarding the Provider Relief Funds and progress in discussions of the CGA workgroups which include Diversity, Medicaid and Veteran issues.

Report from State Government Affairs: Chad Olson provided the Council with an in depth report on the ADA Vaccine toolkit which helped state dental societies advocate for authorization for dentists to administer COVID and non COVID vaccines permanently. Paul O'Connor and Matt Rossetto described various dental insurance reform and SPA actions across the states.

Staff Report: Ms. Erica Hoefft from Integrated Marketing and Communications reviewed outcomes from the "Oral Health is Health" campaign which offered education on ADA initiatives to beltway audiences. She covered the differences between earned and paid media while updating the Council on dentist who served as vaccinators during the past several months.

Report of the New Dentist Committee: Dr. Brooke Fukuoka described the focus on financial and physical wellness programs offered to New Dentists. She mentioned an emphasis on associate dentists to become members while looking at Medicaid participation being a consideration for the "Ten Under 10" award process.

Special Order of Business: Dr. Steven Ortego, Chair of the American Dental Association Political Action Committee (ADPAC), covered the typical process for supporting legislators in various campaigns. He stressed the importance of ADPAC as a way to promote advocacy for the profession and mentioned the potential for a segment on Medicaid programs during the 2022 Lobby Day event.

This report was informational only and no action was requested.

Special Order of Business: Dr. Sandy Schneider, Associate Director of Clinical Affairs for the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) shared an overview of conditions which are seen currently in hospital Emergency Departments (ED) across the country. She updated the Council with data collected

from the Emergency Medicine Service (EMS) on the number of patients who used ambulances to visit hospital EDs for dental issues.

She also stressed the necessity for adequate Medicaid dental benefits to reduce dental patients accessing hospital EDs for care. Council members engaged her with questions about patients who visit the ED multiple times and hospital restrictions for operating room time.

This report was informational only and no action was requested.

Council Discussion: The Council had an open discussion about the Health Equity resolution passed at the January meeting. Dr. Klemmedson offered insights about how to reference equity vs equality while members shared their opinions on strategy for the upcoming House of Delegates meeting. Particular mention was made of the necessity to gain feedback from various other organizations and specialty groups.

Dr. Meeske led the Council in a conversation regarding the need for a Medicaid Task Force to make reforms on a national level that states could emulate. Special mention was made of the need for advocacy for essential adult dental Medicaid benefits which would not be optional for states. The need for a resolution to move this topic to the House of Delegates was established.

Special Order of Business: Rear Admiral Tim Ricks, assistant Surgeon General of the U.S., provided the Council with an update on the public health need for better integration of oral health with primary medical care. He stated that the current focus is on oral health as integral to overall health, with an aim towards multi-directional, interdisciplinary integration /referrals.

He covered the apprehension of dentists fearing liability when screening for diabetes and stressed the necessity of dentists asking about vaccine status for multiple conditions as dental offices could help with vaccinations of children who do not have a medical provider.

His priorities as Chief Dental Officer of the Public Health Service continue to include sealants and community water fluoridation.

Special Report: Dr. Diptee Ojha, Senior Manager in the Practice Institute, partnered with Council member (and DQA liaison from CAAP) Dr. Irene Hilton to review quality measures and Core Set updates. She mentioned that the child set of core measures becomes mandatory in 2024. There are currently no adult quality measures under consideration by CMS at this time.

Report of the Health Policy Institute: Dr. Marko Vujicic, Senior Vice President of the Health Policy Institute, shared the most recent data regarding dental office recovery from COVID. About one percent of dental practices have not reopened, and the recruitment of office staff (particularly hygienists) remains a challenge. The vast majority of patients have stated through surveys that they are ready to visit the dentist, showing great confidence in dental office safety.

Council members shared their post COVID stories ranging from difficulty in obtaining quality supplies at reasonable prices to updated reimbursement requests by dental office staff. Dr. Vujicic also mentioned the efforts of ADA and HPI to partner with outside organizations to advocate for mandatory adult dental Medicaid benefits.

These reports were informational and no action was requested

The HPI presentation related to adult Medicaid data was a topic of discussion by the Council.

Upon vote, the Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

Resolved, that a task force be convened by the ADA President to develop a cohesive and broad-reaching strategy for federal and state-Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program advocacy to reduce administrative burdens and create sustainable reimbursement for participating dentists. Issues addressed must include, but not be limited to:

- Credentialing.
- Funding and reasonable reimbursement.
- Benefit design, implementation and administration.
- Appropriate auditing practices.
- Coordination when multiple in-state program administrators exist.
- Requirements for stakeholder involvement.
- Best practices and model programs to use as benefit and policy benchmarks, and be it further.

Resolved, the advocacy strategy should include policy actions that the ADA and state advocates can pursue at the federal and state level, including adequate ADA public affairs support to ensure successful outcomes and, be it further

Resolved, that the task force be comprised of representation inclusive of at least the Board of Trustees, Council on Dental Benefit Programs, Council on Government Affairs, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, at-large Delegates or Alternate Delegates of the 2021 House of Delegates, and state dental association staff with public program advocacy experience and, be it further

Resolved, that the task force shall report its strategy recommendations to the 2022 ADA House of Delegates.

Report of the Access and Advocacy Committee: Dr. Carol Morrow, Chair, made the case for dentists to be participatory in their state Medicaid to any extent possible. On behalf of the Subcommittee, she thanked the Medicaid Provider Advisory Committee for their expert presentations to over 35 dental schools, state associations and residency programs this year alone.

Dr. Morrow urged the Council to consider several resolutions to be accomplished by ADA staff that would provide a broader platform of collaboration for Medicaid programs and access to care.

Upon vote, the Council approved the following steps for ADA departments to consider:

Resolved, that the Department of State Government Affairs (DSGA) and CAAP will encourage state dental associations to advocate for streamlining provisional Medicaid credentialing with 30 days as an acceptable goal, and be it further

Resolved, that DSGA and CAAP will encourage state dental associations to advocate for prompt payment of clean Medicaid claims within 15 days of submission, and be it further

Resolved, that the Council on Government Affairs will advocate for congressional language to prompt the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to incorporate the 2020 ADA House approved Guidelines for Medicaid Dental Reviews (Res.25H-2020) into their recommendations for state Medicaid dental programs, and be it further

Resolved, that the Council on Government Affairs will advocate for congressional language to prompt the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a uniform Medicaid auditor training program, and be it further

Resolved, that the Council on Government Affairs will advocate for congressional language to direct CMS to enhance reimbursement for dental schools and residency programs that treat a significant number of Medicaid patients, and be it further

Resolved, that CAAP and other ADA agencies will collaborate to develop and pilot educational modules prompting healthcare careers for middle and high school students, especially dentistry, as a means of fostering future Medicaid providers, and be it further

Resolved, that these agencies within the ADA's Division of Government and Public Affairs will report their progress on these resolutions at the 2022 CAAP summer meeting.

Dr. Rich Herman, Chair of the Culture of Safety Workgroup for the Council, offered insights into the Workgroup activities to date. A webinar on patient safety earlier this year had over 600 attendees, a testament to the interest level in this topic.

Upon vote, the Council approved the following resolution to be moved to the ADA House of Delegates:

Resolved, that the American Dental Association acknowledges the value of self-reporting dental patient safety issues to a certified Patient Safety Organization that complies with the Patient Safety Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, as critical to our professional responsibility for education and self-regulation, and be it further

Resolved, the American Dental Association encourages the voluntary reporting of near misses and adverse incidents to the Dental Patient Safety Foundation in an anonymous and non-discoverable manner, and be it further

Resolved, that the American Dental Association utilizes submitted reports to develop and report on improved safety measures for the profession of dentistry.

Report of the Prevention Subcommittee: Dr. Shamik Vakil, Subcommittee Chair, gave an overview of the priorities of the subcommittee, citing community water fluoridation, collaboration with Tobacco Free Kids as part of the California Department of Health campaign. Dr. Karin Arsenault, CAAP liaison to the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee, updated the Council on national perspectives occurring at this time regarding fluoridation. Dr. Irene Hilton, Chair of the Sealant Workgroup, shared the continued low incidence of sealant placement by general dentists with a renewed emphasis for education to promote this important prevention strategy. Dr. Tim Ricks urged the 2022 poster for National Children's Dental Health Month be focused on dental sealants.

Report of the Prime Subcommittee: Dr. Shailee Gupta, Subcommittee Chair, provided the Council with an update from the National Advisory Committee on Health Literacy in Dentistry (NACHLD) and covered the new direction for next year's dental student health literacy essay contest. She also mentioned the active collaboration CAAP enjoys with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and shared that four webinars have been done to date on Health Equity and four webinars have been offered this year on the COVID and HPV vaccines.

Election of Officers: By acclamation, Dr. Shailee Gupta was elected to the position of Chair and Dr. James Mancini was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

Special Order of Business: Mr. Alan Morgan, Executive Director of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), shared the history of the organization with the Council and emphasized the unique nature of rural healthcare settings.

NRHA first developed their Health Equity framework in 1982 and made it a priority soon afterward. He stressed that rural hospitals may close (138 closed as of July 2021), but closure can mean the cessation of emergency and obstetric services, while maintaining patient outpatient services.

Areas of opportunity for collaboration between ADA and NRHA include prioritization of oral health loan repayment sites, payment adjustments due to disproportionate share of underserved populations and increased presence of community health centers.

Special Order of Business: Mr. Mike Shimmens, Executive Director of 3RNet, a recruitment and retention service for rural healthcare organizations, introduced his company's focus on dentists at this time. Dentists are now the third most sought after health professional for rural location, with many robust opportunities for loan repayment and stipends throughout dental school.

These reports were informational and no action was requested

Report of the Chair: Dr. Jessica Meeske gave an overview of her time as Chair, with an emphasis on the work yet to do with Medicaid and Health Equity. She thanked the Council for sharing their perspectives on dental issues of adults, adding to her knowledge base as a pediatric dentist.

Special Order of Business: Dr. Sue Doroshov, 8th District Trustee, updated the Council members on the Joint Action Team for Diversity and Inclusion in the dental profession, which includes the Council on Membership, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Board and the Committee on the New Dentist. Their proposed policy on Diversity and Inclusion was shared with the Council for their input.

Old Business: Dr. Meeske continued to facilitate discussion with the Council members on the Medicaid overview document, citing that it is an exceptional time in our history to focus on this program. After proceeding through each section of the document and allowing Council members to offer comments, Dr. Meeske described the opportunity to have the Council approve the full document with all the offered edits available for final Council approval on a February all Council call.

New Business: There was no new business

Review of Council Meeting Dates: Future meeting dates: January 6-7 July 14-15 2022

The Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention was adjourned at 4:25 pm on July 9th, 2021.