

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

January 6-7, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The virtual meeting of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) was called to order by Dr. Shailee Gupta, CAAP chair, at 9:00am, Central time, Thursday January 6th.

ROLL CALL

Members: Dr. Karen Arsenault (2024) (remote), First District; Dr. Stephen Cochran (2025), Seventeenth District; Dr. Molly Conlon (2026), Ninth District; Dr. Chris Delecki (2024), Eleventh District; Dr. Kristi Golden (2022), Twelfth District; Dr. Shailee J. Gupta (2022), chair, Fifteenth District; Dr. Huong Le (2026), 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. Jackie Nord (2026), Tenth District; Dr. Michael L. Richardson (2022), Sixth District; Dr. Jessica Robertson (2026), Fourteenth District; Dr. Elizabeth Simpson (2025), Seventh District; Dr. Shamik S. Vakil (2022), Sixteenth District and Dr. Elizabeth Clemente (2024), Fourth District.

Liaisons: Dr. James Stephens, ADA Board of Trustees, Seventh District; Mr. Greg Mitro, Alliance of the American Dental Association; Dr. Brooke Fukuoka, Committee on the New Dentist; Ms. Onalee Sortino, ASDA representative; Dr. Mark Vitale, chair, Council on Government Affairs (CGA), and Dr. Dan Gesek, vice chair, Council on Governmental Affairs.

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

Other ADA Staff in attendance for all or portions of the meeting, include: Dr. Marko Vujicic, senior vice president and Dr. Chelsea Fosse, senior analyst, ADA Health Policy Institute; Dr. Diptee Ojha, senior manager, Office of Assessment and Quality Improvement; Mr. Chad Olson, director, Mr. Paul O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, and Mr. Matt Rossetto, legislative liaison, Department of State Government Affairs; Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi, director, Council on Government Affairs; Mr. C. Michael Kendall, senior associate general counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Ms. Katherine Merullo, manager, Public Affairs and Advocacy Communications, and Ms. Susana Galvan, senior manager, Membership Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Analytics,

Special Guests: Rear Admiral Tim Ricks, assistant surgeon general; Ms. Caroline Goncalves Jones, advocacy and outreach director, Tobacco Free Kids; Dr. Thomas Gallagher, internist and executive director of the Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement at the University of Washington; Dr. Winifred Booker, president-elect, Maryland Dental Association; and Dr. Rich Herman, chair, ADA Culture of Safety in Dentistry workgroup.

ADA Disclosure Policy: Prior to conducting any business, Dr. Gupta 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

Greetings from the ADA President: Dr. Cesar Sabates, ADA president and former CAAP chair, gave greetings to the Council and provided his perspective on the value that CAAP provides to the ADA as “the heart and soul” of the organization. The initiatives and activities of CAAP particularly relate to the public pillar of the ADA Strategic Plan, Common Ground 2025.

Address of the ADA Executive Director: Dr. Raymond Cohlma, ADA executive director, provided a governance overview of the Association as a resilient organization facing the challenges of the future. He outlined key areas of his focus, including member/client services, fiscal responsibility, organizational nimbleness and global presence.

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 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: Dr. Grover shared with the Council their ability to share pertinent information with their districts, including the Monthly Updates and various minutes of Council advisory committees and subcommittees. She encouraged the volunteers to provide feedback from within their Districts so that the Council could respond to their needs and concerns.

Report from ASDA: Dr. Onalee Sontino reported on the priorities for ASDA for this year, including Health and Wellness, which is of particular concern in light of the pandemic. The ongoing uncertainty adds to the stress of dental school experiences.

Report of Trustee Liaison: Dr. Jim Stephens, ADA Board liaison, shared insights from the trustees in their continuing efforts to have the ADA focus on membership along with fiscal considerations, such as the reimaged Smile.Con.

Report of the Alliance of the ADA: Mr. Greg Mitro described the Alliance as the family support system of ADA membership, which is focusing now on mental health and wellness. The Alliance plans a May Leadership meeting with several CE sessions, including medical-dental collaboration in support of increasing HPV vaccine rates.

Report of the Council on Governmental Affairs: Dr. Mark Vitale and Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi provided an overview of CGA priorities including access to care for veterans through a memorandum of understanding with the VA Center for Innovation. CGA is examining workplace issues regarding current dental staff availability, as well as designing a toolkit for dentists to keep their practices operational when called into military service.

Report from State Government Affairs: Mr. Chad Olson provided an overview of the significant number of new state dental association executive directors. He introduced Matt Rossetto, a new manager within State Government Affairs, from Wisconsin. Paul O'Connor provided an update on state issues of particular concern to CAAP, including water fluoridation and health literacy bills.

Report from Integrated Marketing and Communications: Ms. Katherine Merullo reviewed outcomes from the “Oral Health is Health” campaign, which offered education on ADA initiatives to audiences within the District of Columbia. She covered the differences between earned and paid media, while updating the Council on dentists 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. The New Dentist Blog continues to offer insights into the challenges and rewards of being a recently graduated dentist.

Special Order of Business: Dr. Brad Barnes, chair of the American Dental Association Political Action Committee (ADPAC), discussed the importance of advocacy especially during this election year. He

shared many of the key aspects of how the pandemic has impacted ADPAC activities such as Lobby Day where ADA Action Team Leaders and ASDA leaders come together for legislative briefings and visits to Capitol Hill.

This report was informational only and no action was requested.

Council Discussion: The Council had an open discussion about the Health Equity resolution passed on consent at the October 2021 House of Delegates. Dr. Gupta shared her intention to host a full day discussion with the Council to address Health Equity, including approving the draft Health Equity Action Plan after receiving Council input. Many volunteers offered thoughts on how “we do this already,” but respected the need to educate members on the principles of Health Equity vs Health Equality.

Special Order of Business: Rear Admiral Tim Ricks, chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, provided an update on the need for better integration of oral health with primary medical care. He stated that the current focus of oral health as integral to overall health could be expanded to include a multi-directional, interdisciplinary referrals.

Dr. Ricks addressed the apprehension of dentists with liability when screening for a multitude of disorders, including diabetes. He stressed the necessity of dentists to routinely ask about overall vaccine status as dental offices could serve as a means of increasing vaccination outcomes, especially for those individuals who do not regularly visit a medical provider.

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

Special Report on the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA): Dr. Diptee Ojha and Dr. Rob Margolin, Council liaison to DQA) reviewed quality measures and core set updates. Both CAAP and CGA members were encouraged to offer comments on these proposed quality indicators.

Report of the Health Policy Institute: Dr. Marko Vujcic shared 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 indicated their readiness to visit the dentist, showing confidence in dental office safety.

Council members shared their post COVID stories ranging from difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies at reasonable prices to increased salary demands by dental office staff. Dr. Vujcic 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

Report of the Access and Advocacy Committee: Dr. Kristi Golden, subcommittee chair, referenced the Medicaid Provider Advisory Committee (MPAC), which continues to wrestle with issues that adversely affect the ability of Medicaid patients to access dental care. These issues include the administrative burdens associated with being a Medicaid provider, now limited access to operating rooms for those individuals most in need of dental treatment, and by educating current and future Medicaid providers to protect themselves and their patients through use of compliance programs and documenting medical necessity.

Dr. Golden mentioned that the Public Health Advisory Committee continues to critique and offer solutions to address the unmet oral health needs of seniors, those with disabilities, veterans and the 50% of Americans who cannot regularly access routine dental care. The Culture of Safety in Dentistry Workgroup continues to work diligently to increase awareness of and implement the 2021 House approved resolution encouraging dentists to voluntarily report near misses and adverse incidents, in an anonymous and non-

discoverable manner, to the Dental Patient Safety Foundation, so that dentists can learn from the experience of others without having to experience the adverse event themselves.

Special Order of Business: Dr. Winifred Booker, president-elect of the Maryland Dental Association and pediatric dentist, educated the Council on the potential value of dentists doing salivary lead screening as the number of individuals exposed to lead is estimated to have doubled according to the CDC. There is already a CDT code for this procedure. A major challenge is third party payers adequately reimbursing for this screening.

Special Order of Business: Dr. Tom Gallagher, internist and executive director of the Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement at the University of Washington, shared what our medical colleagues have learned from embracing transparency with patients and peers when adverse events transpire in practice, which is applicable to dentistry. A highlight was a demonstration of a dentist relating to a patient and her husband that a tooth had been accidentally extracted. The subsequent discussion of what went right and what could have been done better was educational for all who observed. This activity was part of a major initiative of the Culture of Safety in Dentistry workgroup in 2022.

This report was informational only and no action was requested.

Report of the Prevention Subcommittee: Dr. Shamik Vakil, Subcommittee chair, gave an overview of the priorities of the subcommittee, citing community water fluoridation and 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 current national perspectives regarding fluoridation which included the new tablet system for smaller communities. Dr. Irene Hilton, chair of the Sealant Workgroup, shared the continued low incidence of sealant placement by general dentists with a renewed emphasis on education to promote this important prevention strategy. Dr. Tim Ricks complimented the subcommittee on the selection of dental sealants as the topic for National Children's Dental Health Month 2022 since the national sealant average is less than 40%.

Special Order of Business: Dr. Caroline Goncalves Jones, Advocacy and Outreach Director for Tobacco Free Kids, an advocacy organization based in Washington DC, provided an overview on the current state of tobacco and e-cigarette usage in US schools. The Council members were surprised at the innovative marketing of vaping materials to school children, while understanding how dental providers can play a role in smoking cessation strategies with their patients.

This report was informational and no action was requested

Report of the Prime Subcommittee: Dr. Jim Mancini, subcommittee chair, provided the Council with the selection of the Humanitarian Awards Committee winner for 2022, which was profiled in the initial ADA News edition of 2022. He addressed the continued emphasis with Emergency Department Referral and continuing health literacy activities of the National Advisory Committee on Health Literacy in Dentistry.

Dr Mancini reiterated the importance of oral health to overall health, despite the apparent lack of high quality evidence to support this conjecture. Upon vote, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Council and will be transmitted to the 2022 House of Delegates for its consideration:

Resolved, that the American Dental Association supports and encourages research and collaboration between dentists and other healthcare providers to help identify systemic diseases which are strongly suspected to have a direct relationship to a patient's oral health.

Dr. Mancini provided an update on the intention of the Indian Health Service to utilize the CDHC curriculum within their training for dental assistants and hygienists. He shared that the University of

West Virginia School of Dentistry had adopted the CDHC curriculum as well.

Special Order of Business: Ms. Susanna Galvan shared with the Council the priorities of the Diversity and Inclusion class, which encourages these leaders to become engaged with organized dentistry in visible ways. Her team works closely with the Presidents of the Diverse Dental Societies to promote diversity and inclusion across all dental organizations.

Old Business: There was no old business

New Business: There was no new business

Review of Council Meeting Dates: Future meeting dates: July 14-15, 2022 and January 12-13, 2023.

The Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention was adjourned at 4:45pm January 7, 2022.