

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP)  
January 7-8, 2021**

The Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) met virtually on January 7 and 8. The following is a summary of major actions taken by the Council.

**Report of the Prevention Subcommittee:** Dr. Shamik Vakil, Subcommittee Chair, shared the discussions of the subcommittee including:

1. The analysis of the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC) regarding national fluoridation challenges in various communities, an overview of language used in the draft of the National Toxicology Report and the updated one page informational document on community water fluoridation for members
2. Dr. Irene Hilton, Chair of the newly formed National Sealant Advisory Committee, updated the Council on sealant promotion activities and the importance of school based health

**Report of the Access and Advocacy Subcommittee:** Dr. Carol Morrow, Chair, updated the Council on the activities of the Subcommittee which included:

1. Recommendations of the Medicaid Provider Advisory Committee (MPAC) to the Medicaid strategy document prepared by Dr. Meeske
2. Current progress of the Safety Workgroup in moving forward the dental safety considerations offered by the Dental Patient Safety Foundation and requested by the 2018 House of Delegates
3. The most recent focus of the Public Health Advisory Committee on health equity and access to care

**Report of the Prime Subcommittee:** Dr. Shailee Gupta, Chair, shared with the Council some relevant information regarding the scope and activities of the Subcommittee including:

1. Criteria and additional considerations for the CAAP designed Action for Dental Health Award which was approved by the Council last year
2. Oversight of the ADA Humanitarian Award which was moved from a Board Committee to CAAP
3. ED Referral Workgroup ZOOM sessions which feature an update from the leadership of the American College of Emergency Physicians
4. The collective progress of the CDHC Transition Team which encompasses new schools to offer the curriculum, journal articles forthcoming and a soon to be released report from the Sinai Chicago Urban Health Institute on a 2019 CDHC research project

Upon vote, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Council and will be transmitted to the 2020 House of Delegates for its consideration:

00. Resolved : That the American Dental Association promote equity and social justice to improve the health of our nation and be it further resolved that the ADA
- Promote equity of oral health services in all health training and program design to reduce oral health disparities
  - Promote oral health education and awareness in all healthcare training to better integrate oral health into overall healthcare
  - Advocate for consistent and equitable oral health access, data collection and research
  - Collaborate with other healthcare organizations to influence determinants of care and improve health literacy
  - Work to increase healthcare diversity and cultural competency /awareness for the dental team
  - Reduce administrative burdens in dental insurance plans to maximize opportunities for everyone to have equitable access to dental care
  - Promote equitable funding for all dental plans within a state to reduce treatment disparities
  - Work to increase ableism awareness in healthcare and to eliminate discrimination based on disability

Special Orders of Business:

- Dr. Kathleen O’Loughlin updated the Council on membership issues and the positive impact the ADA has had with the dental community regarding COVID communications
- Dr. Robert Bosack and Dr. Stuart Lieblich of the Dental Patient Safety Foundation shared the history and purpose of the DPSF in addition to the future goals of the organization. Their presentation featured the necessity of dental practitioners sharing their safety issues within a confidential forum to provide shared learning
- Dr. Natalia Chalmers, current dental officer for CMS, informed the Council of her activities which include moving relevant data into Medicaid considerations such as opioid prescribing in hospital emergency departments, integration of oral health treatment in substance abuse programs and effective of adult programs to enhance employability
- Dr. Tim Ricks, Chief Dental Officer of the US Public Health Service, updated the Council on COVID vaccine types, design and administration categories for the public. He also covered the details of the vaccine card which patients receive to record the type of vaccine administered.
- Ms. Katherine Merullo, Manager Public Affairs and Advocacy, shared metrics of the “Oral Health is Health” campaign and informed the Council members of the positive impressions the messages had in earned, paid and shared media
- Dr. Chelsea Fosse, Senior Policy Analyst for the Health Policy Institute, presented the Council with an overview of how COVID impacted dental offices are addressing vaccine hesitancy, staffing challenges and patient confidence to return to dental offices for treatment
- Dr. Alejandra Valencia, Dental Director of the Chicago Community Oral Health Forum, gave a presentation to the Council which addressed the topics of poverty, health equity, case management and the logistics of providing dental services to the students of the Chicago Public Schools.

### **Council Members**

Dr. Jessica Meeske, chair, NE  
Dr. Shailee Gupta, vice-chair, TX  
Dr. Karin Arsenault, MA  
Dr. Elizabeth Clemente, NJ  
Dr. Stephen Cochran, FL  
Dr. Chris Delecki, WA  
Dr. Kristi Golden, AR  
Dr. Irene Hilton, CA  
Dr. Katherine Kosten, IL  
Dr. James Mancini, PA  
Dr. Robert Margolin, NY  
Dr. Rodney Marshall, AL  
Dr. Carol Morrow, CO  
Dr. Michael Richardson WV  
Dr. Elizabeth Simpson, IN  
Dr. Shamik Vakil, NC  
Dr. Jehan Wakeem, MI  
Dr. Brooke Fukuoka, ID (Committee on the New Dentist representative)

### **Council Liaisons:**

Dr. Brett Kessler, Colorado (ADA Board of Trustees)  
Mr. Greg Mitro, Tampa, Florida (Alliance of the American Dental Association)  
Ms. Joelle Chen, Utah, ASDA Representative  
Dr. David White NV (CGA chair)  
Dr. Mark Vitale, NJ (CGA vice