

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions
Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP)
July 8-9, 2021**

The Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) met in person on July 8 and 9 in Chicago, with so members and guests participating virtually. The following is a summary of major actions taken by the Council.

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

1. An update from the ADA's Culture of Safety in Dentistry Workgroup, which included a report from Dr. Rich Herman, workgroup chair and former CAAP chair. A mandated informational report to the 2021 House of Delegates on the progress made by this committee was approved on consent. A resolution calling the ADA to encourage dentists to voluntarily report near misses and adverse incidents in an anonymous and non-discoverable manner was approved
2. The Medicaid Provider Advisory Committee offered six "internal" resolutions to the Division of Government and Public Affairs to reduce the administrative burdens associated with Medicaid participation; educating young people on healthcare career options, especially dentistry; and on improving access to oral health care for underserved populations. These resolutions were approved on consent.
3. Additional information on the activities of the Access and Advocacy Subcommittee can be found in the committee's written report.

Report of the Prevention Subcommittee: Dr. Shamik Vakil, subcommittee chair, updated the Council on the activities of the subcommittee, which included:

1. An explanation of the technology and cost efficiencies of the new tablet system for community water fluoridation.
2. Dr. Irene Hilton, chair of the newly formed National Sealant Advisory Committee, updated the Council on activities to encourage dentists to place sealants as part of their prevention practices. Dr. Tim Ricks mentioned the focus of dental sealants as part of the Healthy People 2030 goals.
3. The 2022 National Children's Dental Health Month theme will feature sealants in its campaign messaging.

Report of the Prime Subcommittee: Dr. Shailee Gupta, subcommittee chair, updated the Council on the activities of the subcommittee, which included:

1. The Action for Dental Health and Humanitarian Award 2021 processes and winners.
2. ED Referral Workgroup quarterly updates, which featured ED environmental scans from the American College of Emergency Physicians.
3. Introduction of new members of the National Advisory Committee on Health Literacy in Dentistry and 2021 Essay Contest protocols for dental schools.
4. An overview of progress within the CDHC program, which includes new schools (including the West Virginia School of Dentistry) and a Federally Qualified Health Center that will begin offering the program in the fall.

5. An overview of the multiple webinars hosted by CAAP addressing COVID vaccines, health literacy and health equity.

Resolutions:

Upon vote, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Council and will be transmitted to the 2021 House of Delegates for its consideration:

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.

Upon vote, the Council unanimously approved the following resolution which will be transmitted to the 2021 House of Delegates for consideration:

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.

The Council also approved resolutions that will not go to the 2021 House of Delegates, but will direct staff and activities to further the work of the Council:

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 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.

Special Orders of Business:

- Dr. Marko Vujicic, senior vice president of the ADA's Health Policy Institute, updated the Council on the recent collaborative white paper developed with other advocacy groups to make the business case for adult dental Medicaid benefits throughout the states
- Dr. Sandy Schneider, associate executive director of Clinical Affairs for the American College of Emergency Physicians, presented to the Council the current state of affairs within the nation's hospital emergency departments. She stressed how dentists could be of significant value in promotion of the COVID vaccine as well as how they could partner with emergency physicians in their communities.
- Dr. Tim Ricks, chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, spoke to the Council about effective medical-dental collaboration as millions of Americans are treated by dentists each year, but have no identified medical provider. Many of these patients are children who are not receiving their necessary vaccines. Dentists could help connect these families to medical homes.
- Ms. Ericka Hoeft, manager of Integrated Marketing and Communications, shared metrics of the *Oral Health is Health* campaign and covered the positive impressions that policy makers and the public receive through digital marketing.
- Mr. Alan Morgan, executive director of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), gave the Council an overview of the rural health landscape across the country as well as shared the Health Equity policy developed over 10 years ago by the RHCA
- Mr. Mike Shimmens, executive director of 3RNet, explained to the Council how his organization assists rural clinics in recruiting and retaining healthcare providers. Dentists are the third most sought after health professional, with significant funding available to help defray student loans.

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, CO (ADA Board of Trustees)
Mr. Greg Mitro, FL (Alliance of the American Dental Association)
Dr. Joelle Chen, UT, ASDA Representative
Dr. David White NV (CGA chair)
Dr. Mark Vitale, NJ (CGA vice chair)