MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ON DENTAL PRACTICE

ADA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, CHICAGO

November 10-11, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting of the Council on Dental Practice (CDP/the Council) was called to order by Dr. Manish Chopra, chair, at 8:30 a.m., November 10, 2022 Central Time in the Executive Board Room of the American Dental Association (ADA) Headquarters in Chicago.

Roll Call: The following Council members and liaisons were present for all or part of the meeting:
- Dr. Manish “Manny” Chopra (chair);
- Dr. Jeffrey C. Ottley (vice chair);
- Dr. Jeff O. Capes;
- Dr. Kamila L. Dornfeld;
- Dr. Amanda L. Fitzpatrick;
- Dr. David Fried;
- Dr. Margaret S. Gingrich;
- Dr. Payam Goudarzi;
- Dr. Ralph L. Howell, Jr.;
- Dr. Michael J. Korch;
- Dr. Princy S. Rekhi (via Zoom);
- Dr. Shane A. Ricci;
- Dr. Genaro Romo, Jr.;
- Dr. Michael A. Saba;
- Dr. Lindsay A. Smith;
- Dr. Julia H. Townsend (via Zoom);
- Dr. Jennifer L. Thompson;
- Dr. ArNelle R. Wright (via Zoom) (New Dentist Member);
- Dr. Brett H. Kessler (Trustee);
- Mr. Gil Barahman (American Student Dental Association).

Following the roll call, the presence of a quorum was noted.

Practice Institute Staff: Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan; Dr. Hana Alberti; Dr. Diane Metrick; Ms. Sharon Stanford; Ms. Rebekah Fiehn; Ms. Barbara Ferriter; Mr. Paul Bralower; Ms. Felicia Bloom; Ms. Katherine “Katie” Call; and Ms. GraceAnn Pastorelli.

ADA Staff (for all or portions of the meeting): Dr. Raymond Cohlmia; Mr. Robert Quashie; Dr. Dave Preble; Marko Vujicic, Ph. D; Jeffrey Fraum, Esq.; Cathryn Albrecht, Esq.; Mr. Chad Olson (via Zoom); Mr. Ken Zenger; and Ms. Jenn Sutherland.

Guests Present (in order of appearance): Dr. Mina Ghorbanifarizadeh, clinical manager, Overjet; Mr. Jesse Kosnitzky, national product sales manager, Dentsply/Sirona; Dr. Wally Renne, Planmeca; Ms. Maria Fuertes, vice president, Practice Solutions, CareStack; Mr. Adam Smith, vice president, Marketing, Dental Intelligence; Mr. Steven Jensen, M.B.A., vice president, Business Development, Dental Intelligence; Dr. Jim Mancini, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP); Dr. Bruce Burton, chair, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA); Dr. Jessica Stilley, chair, Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP); Dr. James Nickman, chair, Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL); Dr. Dan Gesek, chair, Council on Government Affairs (CGA); Dr. Sharukh Khajotia, chair, Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA); Dr. James Lee, chair, New Dentist Committee (NDC); Dr. Nipa Thakkar, chair, Council on Membership (CM); Dr. Laura Schott, vice chair, Council on Communications (CC); and Dr. Kenneth Ascheim, chair, Standards Committee for Dental Informatics Subcommittee 14 on Forensic Odontology Informatics.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement and Confidentiality Statement: The Chair referenced the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement included on the agenda and called for disclosures of potential conflicts of interest. One was received. The Confidentiality Statement was also discussed.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was unanimously adopted and approved by general consent with the permission for the chair to reorder items as needed and the addition of a report on the Academy Standards Board (ASB) Standard 133-SCDI.

Approval of Consent Calendar: A consent calendar was prepared to expedite the business of the Council. Council members had the opportunity to remove any item from the consent calendar for consideration during the general meeting. The Dental Assisting National Board report was removed from Consent.

Consent Calendar: The Council adopted the following resolutions.
Resolved, that the resolutions contained with the following reports be approved by consent:

- Recording of Results of E-ballots
- Subcommittee Structure
- Consultant Appointments 2022-2023

Resolved, that the following reports be filed:

- CDP Operating Plan Update
- Infection Control/Safety Update: OSAP and CDC Update
- Dental Office Piping Regulations: NFPA Update; Air Quality in Dental Offices; ASHRAE Update
- Paid Leave
- ADHA Conference Report
- AADOM Meeting Report
- Division of Government and Public Affairs/Washington Office Report
- Standards Committee on Dental Products
- Opioid Prescribing
- Dental Quality Alliance
- Subcommittee Appointments
- Council Meeting Dates

Recording of Mail Ballots: The Council adopted the following resolution through the consent calendar.

Resolved, that actions approved through E-ballots since the CDP May 2022 meeting be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

E-ballot 2022-01: 
Resolved, that the proposed amendment to the CEBJA’s Guidelines for Dental Advertising be approved.

E-ballot 2022-02: 
Resolved, that the CSA’s proposed amendments to CSA’s: Policy Statement on Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Dentistry; Policy on Use of Amalgam as Restorative Material and Policy; and Policy on Precapsulated Amalgam Alloy be approved.

E-ballot 2022-03: 
Resolved, that the Council on Dental Practice support the Council on Dental Education and Licensure’s action to urge the Commission on Dental Accreditation to review the Accreditation Standards for Dental Assisting Programs and the Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Programs regarding faculty-to student ratios and the qualifications of clinical faculty members.

E-ballot 2022-04: 
Resolved, that the May 12-13, 2022 Meeting Minutes be approved.

Cathryn Albrecht, Esq., ADA Professional Conduct Policy: Ms. Albrecht provided an annual reminder regarding the ADA’s Professional Conduct Policy as presented in the Agenda Book. She advised the Council that both volunteers and staff have a responsibility to abide by this Policy and both are protected by it. This Policy extends even beyond the workplace and includes ADA offsite meetings and social activities. M. Albrecht explained the ADA’s goal is to maintain an appropriate and compliant workplace environment and the process of a report of discrimination or harassment. ADA Division of Legal Affairs is always available to assist in promoting compliance.

Dr. Manny Chopra, chair: Dr. Chopra welcomed the Council and started the meeting off with the Practice Institute Division’s promotional video used during SmileCon™ and shareable to help showcase achievements of Council of Dental Practice and Council of Dental Benefit Programs. He reminded the CDP members that although they are district representatives, their role during the Council discussions is
to prioritize the ADA mission and strategic plan. Specifically, during this council meeting, strategic thought to the ADA’s role in technology, software, standards utilization in industry, wellness and older adult care should drive action through the subcommittees and the advisory committees.

Dr. Brett Kessler, trustee liaison, Eighth District: Dr. Kessler updated the Council on the activities of the Board of Trustees, which includes advocating for insurance reform in the dental industry and strategic forecasting for the Association. Dr. Kessler serves as chair of the ADA Science Research Institute, chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Board Committee and chair of the Audit Committee.

Jeffrey Fraum, Esq., Legal Counsel—Confidentiality and Fiduciary Responsibilities: Mr. Fraum reviewed Council member fiduciary duties, including duty of due care (to attend and prepare for Council meetings), duty of loyalty (to work in ADA’s best interest) and duty of obedience (act in accordance with ADA governance documents). He addressed disclosure of conflicts of interest, including informing the ADA about any change of circumstances during the year, and confidentiality obligations. There is also a duty of confidentiality. Do not disclose information about ADA’s legitimate activities unless it is no longer confidential. He discussed the proper use of Council email (which is discoverable), care in circulating reprints of copyrighted materials, member copyright assignment of work product to ADA and antitrust issues.

2022 CDP Operating Plan Results: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report detailing the status of the CDP 2022 Operating Plan.

Dr. Hana Alberti, senior director, House of Delegate Actions: Dr. Alberti reported that CDP will support the lead councils with the respective resolutions: Council on Communications—Resolution 304H-2022 Social Media Reviews and Reputation Management; Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs—Resolution 212H-2022 Insurance and Paid Extended Leave, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention—Resolution 303H-2022 Advocacy for Dentists to Refer to Tobacco and Vaping Cessation QuitLines, and Policy of Council on Government Affairs—Resolution 502-2022 Amendment to the Policy, Activity to Stop Unlicensed Dental or Dental Hygiene Practice.

EMERGING ISSUES

Digital Dentistry Technology & Innovation in Dentistry: Dr. Chopra introduced the need for discussion of the ADA’s role in digital dentistry and technology, such as 3D printing, CBCT, scanners, robotics. Per the American Dental Education Association, this technology is used in dental schools and will become more commonplace in clinics. Ability for professionals to decipher impact to workflow, safety, and standardization will require collaboration with industry.

Following a panel discussion, the council debriefed and discussed the need to help guide dentists and practices with best in field technology, understand impact of AI in claims adjudication and as a diagnostic tool, and adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Digital Dentistry, Technology and Innovation Subcommittee continue conversations with the American Dental Education Association special interest group regarding digital dentistry and focus efforts on developing guidance on 3D printing technology and guidance regarding ethics in augmented intelligence with a report back to the May 2023 CDP meeting.

Academy Standards Board (ASB) Standard 133-SCDI: Dr. Aschheim, chair, Standards Committee for Dental Informatics Subcommittee on Forensic Odontology Informatics, presented concerns raised in ASB Standard 133:2022 Standard for Age Estimation in Forensic Anthropology. The Council discussed and concurred that forensic anthropology standards should not include guidance concerning live individuals. Setting of dental assessment standards are not in the scope of the ASB Forensic Anthropology Consensus Body but rather falls under the practice of dentistry and ADA standard for dental forensics should apply.

Following discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution:
Resolved, that the CDP Chair communicate to the Academy Standards Board (ASB) input from Standards Committee for Dental Informatics regarding forensic anthropology standards and note that ASB standards should not include guidance concerning living individuals.

Practice Management Software Systems: Dr. Chopra and Dr. Aravamudhan discussed software interoperability, changing regulatory environment, security, and the need to meet provider and patient expectations. The dental profession can experience limitations based on existing software when adding other features for viewing images, e-prescribing, scanning, and 3D printing. A panel of experts discussed interoperability challenges as frustrations for providers wanting to incorporate imaging and lab technology with existing practice software management. Multilocation clinics benefit from cloud-based solutions.

After panel discussion, the council debriefed and recognized opportunity to assist dental professionals in electronic dental record and practice management software guidance and adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, that the Digital Dentistry, Technology and Innovation Subcommittee prioritize development of recommendations to communicate to the appropriate federal agencies providing recommendations for addressing gaps in policies and standards relating to achieving interoperability in dentistry.

Resolved, that Digital Dentistry, Technology and Innovation Subcommittee conduct a comprehensive survey of dental offices across the U.S. to understand use of electronic health records and associated issues such as ability to prescribe electronically, ability to share patient visit summaries, ability to electronically share information with other dental and medical providers etc.

PRACTICE ISSUES

My ADA App Presentation: Career Pathways: Mr. Zenger and Ms. Sutherland provided an overview of the major features of the updated My ADA App, which was launched at 2022 SmileCon and has 4,600 downloads. Features include: chat; digital wallet; custom newsfeed; career tools and new ADA podcast. The App has focused on providing dental school students and new dentists the opportunity to explore various career pathways. Dr Alberti explained the ADA is working with a research company specializing in healthcare which is wrapping up a research study to gather information from dentists in 10 existing career paths: solo practice, small group, DSO employee, DSO owner, faculty, medical-dental, temp, and three federal dentist categories: FQHC, Armed Forces, and others including Indian Health Services, U.S. Coast Guard, and Federal Bureau of Prisons. The information collected will help construct a predictive model that will be featured in the ADA App in the form of a simple quiz to determine career fit and job satisfaction, suggesting two or three pathways that may be ideal for the participant.

ADA Fee Survey: 2022 Update & Future Needs: Dr. Howell discussed the decreased metrics of survey completion, downloads and lack of local based data. He noted that the ADA Survey of Dental Fees is not useful for offices to actually set their fee schedule and provided information on other sources of fee information that are more commonly used. Considering the declining of participation in the Survey and balancing that with the utility and cost of the ADA Survey of Dental Fees.

The Council adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the ADA Survey of Dental Fees be sunset starting in 2024.

Guidelines for Practice Success (GPS)—Managing Finances Module Update and Managing the Dental Team Module Update: Dr. Howell reviewed the multiple existing GPS modules. The content is available throughout ADA.org or can be purchased as books through the ADA Store. GPS Managing Finances and GPS Managing the Dental Team modules were last updated five years ago and need to be inclusive and relevant to employer and employee dental professionals.

Resolved, that updates to the GPS Managing Finances and GPS Managing the Dental Team modules be prioritized by the Practice and Policy Subcommittee for completion by August 2023.
Infection Control Safety Update: OSAP & CDC Update: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on the activities of OSAP and CDC.

Dental Office Piping Regulations: NFPA Update: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on the activities of NFPA.

Air Quality in Dental offices: ASHRAE Update: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on the activities of ASHRAE.

Design Innovation Award: The CDP’s Oversight and Technology Subcommittee reviewed the entries of the ADA Design Innovation Award. The Council discussed the process and judging criteria for the contest to select finalists.

Upon discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Practice and Policy Subcommittee review the selection criteria for the Design Innovation Award (DIA) and present any updates for approval at the May 2023 CDP meeting.

Paid Leave: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on the completion of Paid Leave resource.

DENTAL TEAM RELATIONSHIPS

ADHA Conference Report: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on the ADHA conference.

AADOM Meeting Report: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on the AADOM annual meeting.

Dental Assistant National Board (DANB): The DANB report was removed from the Consent Calendar. After the “Supporting the Dental Workforce of the Future” presentation during the May 2022 Council meeting, the Council expressed concern for limitations in the certification process. Dr. Alberti provided an update from DANB that the exam is not yet offered in other languages and that the suggestion of CDP is being considered.

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

Division Of Government and Public Affairs/ Washington Office Report: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report.

State Government Affairs Update: Mr. Olson reported that the ADA and Massachusetts Dental Society campaigned to support a measure regarding Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) policy. A ballot measure passed at the state’s November 8, 2022 election, asking voters if insurers should spend at least 83% of premium revenue on actual dental care and require a rebate to individuals and groups if spending on care is less than 85%.

ELDER CARE

Elder Care: Symposium Content Dissemination: Dr. Dornfeld and Ms. Bloom summarized the results of the hybrid Older Adult Symposium. Over 1,200 CE were awarded to the over 200 attendees. Six dental schools participated online, 84% of attendees were extremely satisfied or somewhat satisfied overall with the symposium (from online satisfaction survey; not ADA CE survey) and $12,000 non-due revenue was generated. A downloadable resource and opportunity to view the Symposium content on ADA CE Online will be available by the end of the year and disseminated through various ADA promotional channels.
2023 National Elder Care Advisory Committee (NECAC) Charge: The Council discussed the purpose of NECAC and an action to advance the oral health of older adults.

Upon discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the National Elder Care Advisory Committee explore existing content and, if not available, develop a toolkit to educate patients over the age of 55 and non-dental caregivers to promote optimal oral health.

ADA STANDARDS PROGRAM

Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI): Ms. Stanford reported that the Standards Program is undergoing a major reorganization through consolidation of SCDI and the Standards Committee on Dental Products (SCDP) to improve efficiency. CDP will be involved in the approval process since it is one of the Council’s Bylaws duties. Conforming to the accreditation criteria set forth by American National Standards Institute will be required. Ms. Stanford noted that the Augmented Intelligence whitepaper will go out for ballot soon and published in 2023. The Council accepted, through the consent calendar, an information report of activities of SCDP.

Upon discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the ADA Standards Program be urged to prioritize standards on dental 3D-printing and associated materials.

DENTAL TEAM HEALTH WELLNESS & WELL-BEING (DWAC)

National Academy of Medicine (NAM): Dr. Kessler participated on behalf of the American Dental Association in the NAM Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-being. The National Plan was released in October and the ADA is one of the 50 organizations to show early support. Framework from this plan will be utilized in development of DWAC efforts, including the wellness ambassador program.

Wellness Ambassador Program: Dr. Dornfeld and Dr. Alberti reported that the Wellness Ambassador program is an additional strategy supported by the DWAC to support health, wellness and well-being among dental professionals. The Ambassadors had an introductory call in September and an in-person meeting in November. Beginning in January 2023, the 10 ambassadors will participate in monthly online Zoom discussion forums and presentations from various health professionals. They will work to assess awareness of physical and mental health challenges, evaluate existing content and needs of the dental professional, and connect those in need of immediate help with those resources. Through collaboration with associations, dental schools and other educational programs, or dental societies, the ambassadors will complete three projects by September 2023 to impact dental professional well-being. The program is not designed to train the ambassadors as professional therapists or experts.

Health and Well-being Summit: Dr. Dornfeld discussed the DWAC recommendation that the biennial Dentist Health and Well-Being Conference be replaced by a Wellness Summit. By convening annually, an ADA Health and Well-Being Summit would provide a common forum for efforts of State Well-being Directors, DWAC and the Wellness Ambassadors.

Upon discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that a Health and Well-Being Summit be held annually to replace the existing biennial Dentist Health and Well-Being Conference pre-conference and to ensure collaboration of the Dental Team and Wellness Advisory Committee, wellness ambassadors and state well-being program directors in order to enhance support of dental professionals’ health and well-being.

Resolved, that webinars continue to disseminate information on health and well-being.

Resources for Pregnant Dental Professionals: Dr. Dornfeld and Dr. Wright presented highlights of the DWAC virtual meeting in September. The NDC requested that CDP update existing resources that pertain
to pregnancy post-partum depression, be inclusive of all families, and incorporate content on family planning.

Upon discussion, the council adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, The Council directed that the resources in the Guidelines for Practice Success: Managing Pregnancy module be updated, specifically ensuring the content is inclusive of diversity and all models of families by August 2023.

Opioid Prescribing: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on opioid prescribing.

RELEVANT ADA INITIATIVES

ADA Executive Director Presentation: Dr. Cohlmia presented on “Creating Our New Day at the ADA: Defining Our Future.” He reported on the evolution and expectations of today’s dental landscape; meeting the paradigm shift; 2022 executive goals; focusing on customer/member engagement; embracing and creating strategic forecasting milestones.

Strategic Alignment: Dr. Preble, as the chief strategy officer, is the lead of the Public Professional Customer Group and charged with strategic alignment. He oversees a portfolio of programs across seven councils, which include CDP, CDBP, CDEL, CAAP, CSA, CEBJA and CGA. If there are points of intersection, he ensures that the council with the subject matter expertise is the lead agency and that the councils work together. Going forward, the ADA strategy is focused on projects that have impact and are measurable to ensure that ADA resources are used judiciously.

HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

Health Policy Institute Presentation: Marko Vujicic, Ph.D. presented on key findings of dental team workforce shortages. Key findings include: one-third of assistants (DA) and hygienists (DH) plan to retire within five years; the majority of DAs and DHs are happy in their jobs; roughly half have reported receiving a raise in the past year; and the majority report receiving work benefits. Retention factors include work/life balance, positive workplace culture, and ability to help patients. Attrition factors include negative workplace culture, insufficient pay, lack of growth opportunity, inadequate benefits, and feeling overworked. A full report, Dental Workforce Shortages: Data to Navigate Today’s Labor Market, is available at ADA.org/HPI.

LIAISON/CONSULTANT REPORTS

New Dentist Member: Dr. Wright reported on the NDC’s involvement in ADA membership opportunities to increase new dentist and dental student engagement. She encouraged CDP members to nominate new members in their districts as NDC candidates. The NDC and the DEI Committee collaborated to create the “Amplifying Voices” webinar series of open conversations on diversity and inclusion topics. Video recordings of these sessions are posted on YouTube or ADA CE Online. The NDC also hosted events at 2022 SmileCon on dentist wellness and have presented well-being webinars since 2020.

American Student Dental Association (ASDA): Mr. Barahman updated the Council on ASDA membership, national initiatives and national meetings. ASDA focuses on involving dental students in organized dentistry to show them that they have the power to guide the dental profession and to inspire them to become leaders in ADA and organized dentistry.

Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) Update: The Council accepted, through the consent calendar, an informational report on the activities of DQA.
COUNCIL OPERATIONS

Council Chair Remarks: Several ADA Council chairs were invited to share pending resolutions and activities within their councils (via Zoom).

Subcommittee Structure: The Council adopted the following resolution through the Consent Calendar, The Council was provided with the revised subcommittee structure in the Council Agenda Book.

Resolved, that the new Council subcommittee structure be approved.

Subcommittee Appointments: The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on appointments to the subcommittees.

Consultant Appointments: The Standing Rules for Councils and Commissions states that “Each Council shall have the authority to appoint consultants in conformity with the rules and regulations established by the Board of Trustees except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws. The Council shall inform the Board in writing the selection of consultants in conformity with rules and regulations established by the Board of Trustees.” The Council adopted the following resolution through the consent Calendar.

Resolved, that the following individuals be approved as consultants with terms ending at the close of the 2023 ADA House of Delegates meeting:

- Allareddy, Veeratrishul, B.D.S., M.S., Iowa City, IA
- Guest, Gary F., D.D.S., San Antonio, TX
- Harunani, Mohamednazir, D.D.S., M.A.G.D., Rockford, IL
- Rizkalla, Adel D.D.S., Falls Church, VA
- Zeller, Gregory G., D.D.S., Lutherville, MD

Future Meeting Dates: The 2023 meetings of the Council on Dental Practice are scheduled for May 18-19 and November 9-10.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Council meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. CT on Friday, November 11, 2022.