

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
ADA OFFICE, CHICAGO, IL  
AUGUST 21-22, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) was called to order by Dr. White, CGA chair, at 8:33 AM CDT on August 21, 2021.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members:** (District 1) Dr. Abe Abdul, 2024; (District 2) Dr. Raymond Miller, 2023; (District 3) Dr. John Reitz, 2021; (District 4) Dr. Mark Vitale, 2022; (District 5) Dr. Leigh Kent, 2024; (District 6) Dr. Leon Stanislav, 2022; (District 7) Dr. Matthew Messina, 2021; (District 8) Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry, 2024; (District 9) Dr. David Clemens, 2024; (District 10) Dr. Emily Willett, 2021; (District 11) Dr. John Hisel, 2022; (District 12) Dr. Matthew Cohlma, 2022; (District 13) Dr. John Blake, 2023; (District 14) Dr. David White, chair, 2021; (District 15) Dr. Matthew Roberts, 2023; (District 16) Dr. Mark Crabtree, 2023; (District 17) Dr. Dan Gesek, 2024; (New Dentist Member) Dr. Steve Feldman, 2021.

**Liaisons:** Dr. Jay Harrington, Board of Trustees (District 5); Mr. Sebastian Celis Cifuentes, American Student Dental Association; Dr. Steve Ortego, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee; Dr. Jessica Meeske, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Ms. Sue Hadnot, Alliance of the American Dental Association.

**Council Staff:** Mr. Michael Graham, senior vice president, Government and Public Affairs; Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi, director, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Mr. Robert J. Burns, manager, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Mr. David Linn, manager, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Mr. Corey McGee, manager, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Ms. MT Fogarty, senior project assistant.

**Other ADA Representatives Present for All or Part of the Meeting:** Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director, ADA; Dr. Daniel Klemmedson, president, ADA; Mr. Chris Tampio, director, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Jennifer Fisher, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Megan Mortimer, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Natalie Hales, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Sarah Milligan, director, American Dental Political Action Committee; Ms. Katherine Merullo, manager, Public Affairs and Advocacy Communications; Dr. Jane Grover, director, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Ms. Tooka Zokaie, manager, Fluoridation and Preventive Health Activities; Ms. Kelly Cantor, manager, Community Based Programs; Ms. Elaine Barone, manager, Administrative Services, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Mr. Michael Kendall, senior associate general counsel, Legal Affairs; Mr. Chad Olson, director, State Government Affairs; Mr. Paul O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, State Government Affairs; Mr. Matt Rossetto, legislative liaison, State Government Affairs; Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, senior director, Center for Dental Benefits, Coding, and Quality; Dr. Chelsea Fosse, senior health policy analyst, Health Policy Institute; Mr. Thomas Elliott, director, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs.

**Chairs and Vice Chairs of Councils and Committees:** Dr. Randall Markarian, Council on Dental Benefit Programs; Dr. Duc "Duke" Ho, Council on Dental Practice; Dr. Sam Mansour,

Council on Communications; Dr. Jeff Kahl, Council on Membership and Marketing Research; Dr. Meredith Bailey, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs; Dr. Jacqueline Plemons, Council on Dental Education and Licensure; Dr. Daniel Hall, New Dentist Committee; Dr. Shailee Gupta, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention.

**Other Guests:** Dr. Rosa Chaviano-Moran, president, Hispanic Dental Association; Dr. Pamela Alston, president, National Dental Association; Dr. Cristin Haase, vice president, Society of American Indian Dentists; Dr. Douglas Erickson, incoming member, CGA; Dr. John Roberts, incoming member, CGA.

### **August 21, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. White at 8:33 AM CDT.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Upon vote, the Council approved the agenda.

- **Resolved**, the agenda is adopted.

**Approval of Consent Calendar:** Upon vote, the Council approved the consent calendar.

- **Resolved**, the agenda is adopted.

**Legal Policy:** Mr. Kendall spoke about the ADA's conflict of interest policy and asked the Council members to disclose any potential conflicts.

**Welcome and Report of the Chair:** Dr. White welcomed the Council to the meeting and thanked the members for the opportunity to serve as chair.

**2021-2022 Chair and Vice Chair Candidate Forum and Elections:** The candidates gave brief remarks. Dr. Vitale was elected chair and Dr. Gesek was elected vice chair.

**Report of the Board of Trustees:** Dr. Harrington gave an update on the priorities of the Board, including the digital transformation project, membership and financial sustainability, the transition to the new executive director, science and research, advocacy, and new association management software. The Board passed a resolution on giving the New Dentist Committee a vote on the Board, as well as a resolution that said that the ADA's participation in the political process should reflect its values, ideals, and priorities.

**Report of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention:** Dr. Meeske spoke about the priorities of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP), including its resolutions on health equity, Medicaid, and the culture of safety in dentistry.

**Report of the State Public Affairs Oversight Workgroup:** Mr. Olson, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Rossetto talked about the State Public Affairs (SPA) program's activities on dental insurance reform and workforce. They discussed SPA's work with the Consumer Choice Center and the state Attorney Generals. They also highlighted the success of the SPA program in passing state laws.

**Remarks by ADA President:** Dr. Klemmedson spoke about the workforce shortage in dentistry and vaccine mandates. He emphasized the importance of diversity and inclusion and

encouraging new and diverse dentists to become involved in the ADA. He also talked about political advocacy and the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC).

**Report of the American Student Dental Association:** Mr. Celis Cifuentes discussed the initiatives of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), including educating students on applying for residency and buying a practice. He also talked about ASDA's work on diversity and inclusion, advocacy, and wellness.

**Report of the New Dentist Committee:** Dr. Feldman talked about the activities of the New Dentist Committee (NDC) on issues such as finding a job and managing finances, diversity and inclusion, and burnout. He also spoke about the NDC's appreciation of CGA's work on student loan reform. Lastly, he discussed the NDC's plans for SmileCon and the House of Delegates, including a resolution on bringing new dentists into the leadership of the tripartite.

**Discussion Led by the Health Policy Institute:** Dr. Fosse shared data from the Health Policy Institute (HPI) on dentistry's COVID-19 economic recovery, including staff recruitment and patient volume. She also discussed oral health equity and the diversity of the dental workforce. Looking to the future, she said the four big trends for dentistry will be intensified consumerism, shifting demographics, enabling technology, and payment reform.

**Discussion Led by the ADA Executive Director:** Dr. O'Loughlin spoke about the ADA's recovery from COVID-19, including its membership and revenue numbers. The Council discussed how best to reach out to new and diverse dentists, as well as dentists who work for a dental service organization (DSO). Dr. O'Loughlin said that the ADA is doing well financially. Additionally, she gave an update on the Common Ground 2025 strategic plan.

**Report of the American Dental Political Action Committee:** Dr. Ortego gave an update on the four main functions of ADPAC, including raising money, distributing money, grassroots advocacy, and political education. He also spoke about the changes being made at ADPAC as a result of January 6. Lastly, he talked about ADPAC's upcoming events, including SmileCon, Campaign School, and the 2022 lobby day.

**Update on Action for Dental Health:** Dr. Grover spoke about Action for Dental Health initiatives, including Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHCs) and Emergency Department (ED) referral. Dr. Stanislav and Ms. Zokaie talked about community water fluoridation and the activities of the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC).

**Update and Discussion on Congress:** Mr. Tampio told the Council that the staff continues to lobby on Capitol Hill on issues such as appropriations, insurance reform, McCarran Ferguson, student loan debt, Medicaid, and health equity. Mr. Graham spoke about, and answered questions on, the Medicare dental benefit proposal being considered in Congress and the ADA's lobbying work on an alternative Medicare dental proposal based on ADA policy.

**Report of the Alliance of the American Dental Association:** Ms. Hadnot informed the Council on the work of the Alliance, including its legislative advocacy, oral health education activities, Well-Being Committee, SmileCon events, and 2021 conference in Tucson, Arizona.

**Update on Public Affairs:** Ms. Merullo spoke about media coverage on the ADA and dentistry, including on issues such as COVID-19, Medicare, Medicaid, the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act, and ADPAC contributions to Congressman Gosar. She also talked about the Oral Health is Health digital campaign ads. Plans for public affairs in 2021 include moving away from COVID-

19 and towards topics like dental insurance reform and health equity. Lastly, Ms. Merullo shared ADA News multimedia features on technology and COVID-19.

**Discussion on CGA Orientation:** Dr. Willett discussed the improvements the Workgroup is recommending the Council make to the orientation process. Many of these suggestions are based on the responses the Workgroup got from the Council survey. Upon vote, the Council approved the new orientation process.

- **Resolved**, the new orientation process is approved.

**Discussion on COVID-19 and Future Pandemics:** The Council talked about lessons learned from COVID-19, including the need for frequent updates from the ADA and ensuring an adequate supply of affordable personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Discussion on Annual Session:** Dr. Vitale spoke about plans for annual session, including hosting social events and having CGA members speak in support of the Council's resolutions.

### **August 22, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. White at 8:34 AM CDT.

#### **Remarks by Council and Committee Chairs:**

- Dr. Markarian spoke about the Council on Dental Benefit Programs' activities, including the clinical data registry and Bento.
- Dr. Ho talked about the Council on Dental Practice's work, including on issues such as artificial/augmented intelligence, sleep apnea, and the National Elder Care Advisory Committee (NECAC).
- Dr. Plemons discussed the resolutions the Council on Dental Education and Licensure is bringing to the House of Delegates, and also talked about the Council's work on licensure portability, the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE), and guidelines on pediatric pain control and sedation.
- Dr. Bailey talked about the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs' work on biases in dental practice, the ethics of vaccination, and teledentistry.
- Dr. Hall discussed the work of the New Dentist Committee on providing financial resources to new dentists. He also spoke about the resolution on the New Dentist Committee having a vote on the Board, as well as the resolution on diversity and inclusion.
- Dr. Mansour spoke about the Council on Communications' trend report, as well as the Oral Health is Health campaign and the launch of the new ADA website. Additionally, he discussed the staff shortage in dental offices.
- Dr. Kahl talked about the Council on Membership and Marketing Research, including the current membership numbers and the dropoff in new members since the pandemic. He also told CGA about the pilot program on large group practices and the resolution on diversity and inclusion.

**Policy Review Workgroup:** Dr. Cohlma discussed the Board's concerns about Resolution 29. Upon vote, the Council agreed to rescind Resolution 29.

- **Resolved**, Resolution 29 is rescinded.

Upon vote, the Council then approved the revised version of Resolution 29, which rescinded the resolution.

- **Resolved**, the revised Resolution 29 is approved.

**Military Workgroup:** Dr. Miller spoke about the work of the Military Workgroup, including the VA Dental Pilot Program, a toolkit to assist dentists who are Reserve/Guard members, and the Give Veterans a Smile summit hosted by the ADA. He also discussed legislation the ADA is supporting on military and veterans' issues. CGA members talked about the connections they have to dental schools the VA could work with to expand the Pilot Program.

**Diversity Workgroup:** Dr. Willett introduced the representatives from the Diverse Dental Society, Dr. Chaviano-Moran from the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA), Dr. Haase from the Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID), and Dr. Alston from the National Dental Association (NDA). The guests spoke about their organizations and answered the questions CGA had posed to them: 1) What are you currently working on, 2) What are your plans for the future, 3) How can the ADA help? CGA discussed with the guests how the ADA can collaborate with the Diverse Dental Society on advocacy.

**In-Office Dental Plans Workgroup:** Dr. Messina discussed the HPI survey of dentists on in-office dental plans, as well as state laws on the issue.

**Medicaid Workgroup:** Dr. Blake talked about the history of Medicaid. The Council discussed state laws on Medicaid reimbursement and adult dental coverage, and ADA advocacy on these issues.

**Discussion on Council Priorities:** Dr. Vitale announced the dates for next year's CGA meetings: January 21-23 and July 21-23. The Council talked about its priorities and which Workgroups the Council should have next year. The topics discussed include Medicaid, Medicare, COVID-19, dental education and student debt, third-party payers, McCarran Ferguson, in-office dental plans, health equity, diversity and inclusion, licensure, and labor and workforce.

The Council on Government Affairs meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM CDT on August 22, 2021.