

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
VIRTUAL
JANUARY 20-21, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) was called to order by Dr. Mark Vitale, CGA chair, at 9:28 AM EST on January 20, 2022.

ROLL CALL

Members: (District 1) Dr. Abe Abdul, 2024; (District 2) Dr. Raymond Miller, 2023; (District 3) Dr. James Tauberg, 2025; (District 4) Dr. Mark Vitale, chair, 2022; (District 5) Dr. Leigh Kent, 2025; (District 6) Dr. Leon Stanislav, 2022; (District 7) Dr. John Roberts, 2025; (District 8) Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry, 2024; (District 9) Dr. David Clemens, 2024; (District 10) Dr. Doug Erickson, 2025; (District 11) Dr. John Hisel, 2022; (District 12) Dr. Matthew Cohlma, 2022; (District 13) Dr. John Blake, 2023; (District 14) Dr. Darren Chamberlain, 2025; (District 15) Dr. Matthew Roberts, 2023; (District 16) Dr. Mark Crabtree, 2023; (District 17) Dr. Dan Gesek, 2024; (New Dentist Member) Dr. Steve Feldman, 2022.

Liaisons: Dr. Linda Edgar, Board of Trustees (District 11); Mr. Jake Holtzmann, American Student Dental Association; Dr. Brad Barnes, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee; Dr. Shailee Gupta, 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 Burns, senior manager, Strategic Advocacy and Public Policy; Mr. David Linn, manager, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Mr. Corey McGee, manager, Legislative and Regulatory Policy; Ms. Margaret Tucker (MT) Fogarty, senior project assistant.

Other ADA Representatives Present for All or Part of the Meeting: Dr. Raymond Cohlma, executive director, ADA; Dr. Cesar Sabates, president, ADA; Dr. George Shepley, president elect, ADA; Mr. Christopher 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; Mr. Peter Aiello, senior manager, American Dental Political Action Committee and Political Affairs; Ms. Katherine Merullo, manager, Public Affairs and Advocacy Communications; Ms. Jennifer Garvin, Washington editor, Publications; Dr. Jane Grover, director, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Ms. Tooka Zokaie, manager, Health Equity and Prevention; Ms. Kelly Cantor, manager, Community Based Programs; Mr. Mike Kendall, senior associate general counsel, Legal Affairs; Mr. Chad Olson, director, State Government Affairs; Mr. Paul O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, State Government Affairs; Ms. Jennifer Donahue, manager, State Legislation and Regulation; Dr. Hana Alberti, senior director, Center for Dental Practice Policy; Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, senior director, Center for Dental Benefits, Coding and Quality; Mr. Dennis McHugh, manager, third party advocacy, Center for Dental Benefits, Coding and Quality; Dr. Marko Vujicic, chief economist and vice president, Health Policy Institute; Dr. Chelsea Fosse, senior health policy analyst, Health Policy Institute; Ms. Kathy Clary, manager, Business Administrative Services; Ms. Karen Hart, director, Council

on Dental Education and Licensure; Ms. Hillary DeLong, manager, Council on Scientific Affairs; Mr. Thomas Elliott, director, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs; Ms. Sandy Eitel, senior director, Research, Analytics and Member Growth; Ms. Rita Tiernan, senior manager, Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs; Ms. Amanda Wilander, senior manager, Marketing and Endorsements, ADA Business Enterprises, Inc.

Chairs and vice chairs of Councils and Committees: Dr. David White, past chair, CGA; Dr. Phillip Fijal, past chair, CGA; Dr. Craig Armstrong, past chair, CGA; Dr. Frank Graham, past chair, CGA; Dr. Giorgio DiVincenzo, vice chair, American Dental Political Action Committee; Dr. Meredith Bailey, chair, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs; Dr. Bruce Burton, vice chair, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs; Dr. Kevin Dens, chair, Council on Dental Benefit Programs; Dr. Sharukh Khajotia, vice chair, Council on Scientific Affairs; Dr. Jim Hoddick, chair, Council on Dental Practice; Dr. Donna Thomas-Moses, chair, Council on Dental Education and Licensure; Dr. Meenal Patel, vice chair, Council on Membership; Dr. Seth Walbridge, chair, New Dentist Committee.

Congressional Speaker: Congressman Drew Ferguson (R-GA), DMD; Ms. Allie White, legislative director, Office of Congressman Drew Ferguson.

Guests from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the VA: Dr. Natalia Chalmers, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Dr. Roshni Ghosh, VA Center for Care and Payment Innovation; Dr. Harrison Segall, VA Center for Care and Payment Innovation.

Guest for the Update on Student Loan Reform: Mr. Santo LoPorto, senior director of Relationship Management, Equitable Life Insurance Company.

January 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Vitale at 9:28 AM EST on Thursday, January 20.

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 consent calendar is adopted.

Conflict of Interest (Disclosure) Policy: Mr. Kendall spoke about the conflict of interest policy.

2023 Council Elections and Meeting Dates: Dr. Vitale encouraged members of the Council to run for chair and vice chair. The Council voted to approve the 2023 meeting dates: January 19-21 and July 20-22.

- **Resolved**, the 2023 CGA meeting dates are approved.

Welcome and Report of the chair: Dr. Vitale spoke about his work as chair, including his priorities and other groups and meetings he has participated in during his term. He also talked about the need to increase the diversity of the CGA membership.

Report of the senior vice president and director: Mr. Graham and Ms. Yaghoubi spoke about the work of the staff on issues of importance to CGA, including Medicare, Medicaid, COVID relief, and appropriations funding for oral health programs. Mr. Graham also gave a preview of the staff's work in 2022.

Report of the Board of Trustees: Dr. Edgar spoke about the work of the Board, including finances and membership. She also talked about ensuring that the ADA is communicating its government affairs work to dentists.

Report of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention: Dr. Gupta spoke about the work of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP), much of which in 2022 is going to fall under the category of health equity. She also spoke about the resolution on the connection between systemic disease and oral health. Dr. Grover gave an update on Action for Dental Health, including federal grant opportunities. Dr. Stanislav discussed the work of the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC).

Discussion on Health Equity: Ms. Fisher presented on Congress' understanding of the importance of health equity, as well as the ADA's lobbying on this issue. Dr. Gupta and Ms. Zokaie spoke about the health equity action plan developed by CAAP.

Remarks by Congressman Ferguson: Dr. Ferguson gave an update on the environment on Capitol Hill and Congress' work in 2022. He emphasized that dentists play an important role in educating Congress.

Report of the Alliance of the American Dental Association: Ms. Hadnot discussed the work of the Alliance, including programs on community outreach and improving the wellness of the dental family. She also talked about ways to increase the Alliance's membership.

Remarks by ADA president: Dr. Sabates talked about the Council's work on the Medicare dental issue. He also spoke about the need to communicate with ADA members and those who may not always agree with the ADA.

Presentation and Discussion Led by the ADA Health Policy Institute: Dr. Vujicic spoke about the need to look at the changes that dentistry is going to undergo in the next ten years, including: intensifying consumerism, shifting demographics, new technology, and payment reform. He also emphasized that 50% of Americans do not currently visit the dentist and that is largely due to cost. The Council discussed the different dental practice models and how generational differences affect dentists' choices on those models.

Presentation and Discussion Led by the ADA executive director: Dr. Cohlmia spoke about the role of CGA within the ADA. He gave his vision for the ADA, including increasing membership and an agile governance structure. He also talked about his plans for an app.

Update and Discussion on Congressional Activity: The lobbyists spoke about the issues they work on, including Ms. Fisher's lobbying on appropriations and the dental workforce shortages, Ms. Mortimer's lobbying on small business issues including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and Ms. Hales' lobbying on third party payers and bills such as the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act and DOC Access. The Council discussed possibly developing policies on issues that Congress is currently debating, including tax reform, a veterans dental benefit, paid leave, immigrant dentists, and the US territories.

Discussion on Medicare: The Council discussed the Congressional debate on a Medicare dental benefit, and the ADA's lobbying effort in 2021 for a Part T benefit. Additionally, the Council debated possible options for the ADA's lobbying on elder care in 2022, including Part T, in-office dental plans, medically necessary dental care, vouchers, a demonstration project, Medicare Advantage, or an expansion of Medicaid dental benefits.

Update on the Dental Quality Alliance: Dr. Aravamudhan spoke about the formation and structure of the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) and the request for comment on the DentaQual provider rating program. Dr. Abdul, Dr. Feldman, and Dr. Chamberlain talked about the CGA response to that request for comment.

Report of the State Public Affairs Oversight Workgroup: Mr. Olson spoke about the grants the State Public Affairs (SPA) program has given to the states. Mr. Olson and Mr. O'Connor also discussed SPA's work on dental insurance reform, and the successes states have had in that area. Ms. Donahue talked about SPA and teledentistry.

Discussion on State Government Affairs: Council members discussed legislative proposals in their states, including on issues such as third party payers, Medicaid, vaccination, and student debt. Mr. Olson spoke about activity in the states on dental therapists.

Update on Public Affairs: Ms. Merullo talked about Oral Health is Health, and the top-performing ads from that campaign. She also discussed the ADA's work on earned media, including news stories on COVID, Medicare, and access to dental care. Ms. Merullo showed examples of pages on the redesigned ADA website, and Ms. Garvin discussed top Government Affairs stories in ADA News.

Report of the American Dental Political Action Committee: Dr. Barnes spoke about the four functions of the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC): raising money, distributing money, grassroots advocacy, and political education. He also discussed Lobby Day.

Report of the New Dentist Committee: Dr. Feldman spoke about the work of the New Dentist Committee (NDC), including alternative methods for reaching new dentists during the pandemic, including new dentists in the ADA leadership pipeline, and the 10 under 10 awards.

January 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Vitale at 9:27 AM EST on Friday, January 21.

Public Insurance Programs Workgroup: Dr. Blake talked about what the Workgroup is discussing on Medicaid and Medicare. Upon vote, the Workgroup charge statement was approved.

- **Resolved**, the Public Insurance Programs Workgroup charge statement is approved.

Dr. Chalmers presented on her work at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Policy Review Workgroup: Drs. Cohlma, Roberts, and Tauberg presented recommendations to retain, rescind, or amend thirteen Association policies, in accordance with the policy titled Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (*Trans.2010:603; 2012:370*). Upon vote, the Council agreed to retain 11 policies, rescind one policy, and amend two policies, pending review by the Councils with secondary jurisdiction. See addendum for more information.

Military Workgroup: Upon vote, the Workgroup charge statement was approved.

- **Resolved**, the Military Workgroup charge statement is approved.

Dr. Ghosh presented on the work of the VA Center for Care and Payment Innovation (CCPI). Dr. Miller spoke about the Workgroup's activities on a reserve/guard toolkit and the Give Veterans a Smile Summit. The Council discussed legislation on the military and veterans, and the development of ADA policy on a VA dental benefit.

Labor Issues Workgroup: Upon vote, the Workgroup charge statement was approved.

- **Resolved**, the Labor Issues Workgroup charge statement is approved.

The Council discussed Congressional and state proposals on paid leave, as well as the dental team workforce shortages. Upon vote, the Council approved a resolution asking the Board to develop a task force.

- **Resolved**, request the board of trustees develop a task force on workforce issues for immediate action for our members with appropriate agencies involved to include CGA and CDP.

In-Office Dental Plans Workgroup: Upon vote, the Workgroup charge statement was approved.

- **Resolved**, the In-Office Dental Plans Workgroup charge statement is approved.

The Council discussed state laws and regulations on in-office dental plans. Mr. McHugh spoke about ADA resources on these plans, as well as the services offered by Bento.

Update on Student Loan Reform: The Council explored what more the ADA can and should be doing about postgraduate educational debt through legislation and regulation. The Council discussed the status of legislation in the 117th Congress, and also the findings and recommendations in the final report of the ADA Task Force to Study Innovations for Alternate Student Loan Repayment Strategies (SLAP report).

The Council identified several areas where the Association lacked policy, such as blanket student loan forgiveness, caps on educational borrowing, full and automatic discharge of student loans during bankruptcy, and tax and penalty-free early withdrawals of tax advantaged retirement savings to pay down student loans. Ms. Tiernan and Mr. LoPorto spoke about the last issue.

Upon vote, the Council agreed to support S. 3081, the Tax Free Education Act, sponsored by Senator Paul, pending review by the secondary councils of jurisdiction. The Council noted the lack of express policy to support the bill.

- **Resolved**, that the Council recommends supporting this bill, pending feedback from the other Councils of jurisdiction.

Upon vote, the Council passed a resolution stating that the ADA is doing its diligence on student debt and the Council supports the SLAP report.

- **Resolved**, that the ADA is doing its diligence on student loan issues from a regulatory standpoint and the CGA supports the positions expressed in the SLAP report.

Updates by Council and Committee chairs and vice chairs:

- Dr. Bailey spoke about the work of the Council on Ethics, Bylaws, and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA), including on document review, articles on ethics, and the resolution on the allocation of federal dental services representatives to the House of Delegates (HOD).
- Dr. Dens spoke about the work of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP), including on enhanced CDT codes, third party concierge services, and the Dental Experience and Research Exchange (DERE).
- Dr. Khajotia spoke about the work of the Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA), including the development of a three year plan on intramural and extramural research priorities, solidifying and further outlining the relationship between CSA and the ADA Science and Research Institute, growing and improving the dental research pipeline, and disseminating high-quality research.
- Dr. Hoddick spoke about the work of the Council on Dental Practice (CDP), including its subcommittees on 1) practice management, 2) health, wellness, and aging, 3) policies and emerging issues, and 4) technology and oversight.
- Dr. Thomas-Moses spoke about the work of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), including on licensure reform, 2021 HOD policies, 2022 HOD policies, and guidelines for pediatric pain control and sedation.
- Dr. Patel spoke about the work of the Council on Membership (CM), including on the impact of COVID on membership, demographic shifts in membership, different membership models, and ADA membership for the dental team.
- Dr. Walbridge spoke about the work of the NDC on membership, including enhancing the value of membership, increasing peer influence and engagement, and growing the leadership pipeline.

Report of the American Student Dental Association: Mr. Holtzmann spoke about the activities of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), including its chapters, magazine and app, wellness activities, advocacy text alerts, and events. He also discussed the effects of the pandemic on students.

Discussion on Council Priorities: The Council discussed the results of its priorities survey. Council members spoke about other issues of interest to them, including operating room access for dental procedures on young children and patients with special needs.

Unfinished Business and/or Open Forum: Dr. Vitale spoke about his work with CEBJA on the resolution on allocating federal dental service representatives to the HOD. The Council discussed plans for Lobby Day.

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Vitale at 5:50 PM EST on Friday, January 21.

MINUTES ADDENDUM

Drs. Cohlma, Roberts, and Tauberg presented recommendations to retain, rescind, or amend the following Association policies, in accordance with the policy titled Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (*Trans.*2010:603; 2012:370). The Council voted to retain 11 policies, rescind one policy, and amend two policies, pending review by the other councils with secondary jurisdiction, as indicated below.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>Council Recommendation</i>	<i>Secondary Reviewer(s)</i>
Dental Products	40H-2019. National Pretreatment Standard for Dental Office Wastewater (<i>Trans.</i> 2019:305)	Retain	CDP
Global Affairs	97H-1993. Trade Agreements (<i>Trans.</i> 1993:711)	Retain	CDP
Grassroots Advocacy	13H-1987. Campaign Finance Reform (<i>Trans.</i> 1987:520)	Retain	—
Grassroots Advocacy	66H-1997. Affiliation with the Alliance of the American Dental Association (<i>Trans.</i> 1997:701)	Retain	—
Grassroots Advocacy	74H-1999. Activity to Stop Unlicensed Dental or Dental Hygiene Practice (<i>Trans.</i> 1999:949)	Amend	CDP
Grassroots Advocacy	54H-2006. Dissemination of Information Contrary to Science (<i>Trans.</i> 2006:346)	Amend	CAAP CSA
Grassroots Advocacy	75H-2008. ADA Support for Constituent Societies Dealing With Dental Mid-Level Provider Proposals (<i>Trans.</i> 2008:502)	Retain	CDP CDEL
Grassroots Advocacy	43H-2019. Legislative Assistance by the Association (<i>Trans.</i> 2019:310)	Retain	—
Grassroots Advocacy	33H-2021. Legislative Delegations (<i>Trans.</i> 1995:648; 2021:XXX)	Retain	—
Higher Education	57H-2016. National Health Service Corps Policy on Scholarships and Loan Repayments (<i>Trans.</i> 1988:488; 2016:347)	Rescind	CAAP NDC
Higher Education	36H-2019. Federal Student Loan Programs (<i>Trans.</i> 2019:297)	Retain	NDC
Higher Education	37H-2019. Federal Student Loan Repayment Incentives (<i>Trans.</i> 2019:297)	Retain	NDC
Higher Education	38H-2019. Tax Treatment of Student Loan Interest, Scholarships and Stipends (<i>Trans.</i> 2019:298)	Retain	NDC

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>Council Recommendation</i>	<i>Secondary Reviewer(s)</i>
Higher Education	39H-2019. General, Pediatric and Public Health Dental Residency Programs (<i>Trans.2019:295</i>)	Retain	CAAP CDEL

**Council on Government Affairs
Unofficial Report of Major Actions
January 20-21, 2022**

The Council on Government Affairs (CGA) met virtually on January 20-21, 2022. The following is a summary of the major actions taken by the Council:

1. The Council voted to approve its 2023 meeting dates: January 19-21 and July 20-22.
2. The Council voted to approve the public insurance programs workgroup charge statement.
3. The Council voted on the recommendations of the policy review workgroup. The Council adopted motions to retain 11 policies, rescind one policy, and amend two policies, pending review by the other Councils with secondary jurisdiction.
4. The Council voted to approve the military workgroup charge statement.
5. The Council voted to approve the labor issues workgroup charge statement. The Council also voted to approve a resolution requesting that the Board of Trustees develop a task force on workforce issues that would include CGA and the Council on Dental Practice (CDP).
6. The Council voted to approve the in-office dental plans workgroup charge statement.
7. The Council voted to approve a resolution in support of the Tax Free Education Act. The Council also voted to approve a resolution stating that the ADA is doing its diligence on student loan issues from a regulatory standpoint and that CGA supports the positions expressed in the report of the ADA Task Force to Study Innovations for Alternate Student Loan Repayment Strategies.

Council Members:

Dr. Mark Vitale, chair, NJ
Dr. Dan Gesek, vice chair, FL
Dr. Abe Abdul, MA
Dr. John Blake, CA
Dr. Darren Chamberlain, UT
Dr. David Clemens, WI
Dr. Matthew Cohlma, OK
Dr. Mark Crabtree, VA
Dr. Doug Erickson, MN
Dr. Steve Feldman, DC
Dr. John Hisel, ID
Dr. Leigh Kent, AL
Dr. Raymond Miller, NY
Dr. John Roberts, IN
Dr. Matthew Roberts, TX
Dr. Leon Stanislav, TN
Dr. James Tauberg, PA
Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry, IL

Liaisons:

Dr. Brad Barnes, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee, IL

Dr. Linda Edgar, Trustee-Liaison, Eleventh Trustee District, WA

Dr. Shailee Gupta, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, TX

Ms. Sue Hadnot, Alliance of the American Dental Association, MT

Mr. Jake Holtzmann, American Student Dental Association, CO

The Council will meet on July 21-23, 2022.

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
ADA OFFICE, WASHINGTON, DC
JULY 21-23, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) was called to order by Dr. Mark Vitale, CGA chair, at 12:30 PM EST on July 21, 2022.

ROLL CALL

Members: (District 1) Dr. Abe Abdul, 2024; (District 2) Dr. Ray Miller, 2023; (District 4) Dr. Mark Vitale, chair, 2022; (District 5) Dr. Leigh Kent, 2024; (District 6) Dr. Leon Stanislav, 2022; (District 7) Dr. John Roberts, 2025; (District 8) Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry, 2024; (District 10) Dr. Doug Erickson, 2025; (District 11) Dr. John Hisel, 2022; (District 12) Dr. Matthew Cohlmlia, 2022; (District 13) Dr. John Blake, 2023; (District 14) Dr. Darren Chamberlain, 2025; (District 15) Dr. Matthew Roberts, 2023; (District 16) Dr. Mark Crabtree, 2023; (District 17) Dr. Dan Gesek, vice chair, 2024; (New Dentist Committee) Dr. Steven Feldman, 2022.

Liaisons: (Board of Trustees) Dr. Linda Edgar, eleventh district trustee; (Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention) Dr. Shailee Gupta, chair; (Alliance of the American Dental Association) Ms. Sue Hadnot.

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

Other ADA Representatives Present for All or Part of the Meeting: Dr. Raymond Cohlmlia, executive director, ADA; Dr. Cesar Sabates, president, ADA; Dr. George Shepley, president elect, ADA; Mr. Robert Quashie, chief operating officer; Mr. Chris Tampio, director, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Jennifer Fisher, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Natalie Hales, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Megan Mortimer, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Sarah Milligan, director, American Dental Political Action Committee; Mr. Peter Aiello, senior manager, American Dental Political Action Committee and Political Affairs; Dr. Jane Grover, director, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Dr. Elizabeth Lense, manager, Equity and Prevention; Mr. Matt Zaborowski, manager, Preventive Health Activities; Ms. Kelly Cantor, manager, Community Based Programs; 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. Dave Preble, chief strategy officer, senior vice president, Practice Institute; Dr. Hana Alberti, senior director, Center for Dental Practice Policy; Ms. Katie Call, manager, Digital Media, Marketing and Dental Team Activities, Center for Dental Practice Policy; Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, vice president, Practice Institute; Dr. Marko Vujicic, chief economist and vice president, Health Policy Institute; Dr. Chelsea Fosse, senior health policy analyst, Health Policy Institute; Dr. Anthony Ziebert, senior vice president, Education and Professional Affairs; Ms. Karen Hart, director, Council on Dental Education and Licensure; Dr. Meg Strotman, senior manager, Council on Dental Education and Licensure; Ms. Rita Tiernan, senior manager, Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs; Mr. Tom Elliott, director, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs; Ms. Sandy Eitel, director, Council on Membership; Ms. Kathy Clary, manager, Business Administrative Services; Ms. Pam Fryer, project assistant; Mr. Christopher Matta, intern; Ms. Allison Bartlett, intern.

Special Guests: Representative Brian Babin, DDS (R-TX); Mr. Gray McGinnis, vice president of government relations, Association of Dental Support Organizations; Mr. Chris Borgerding, director of government relations, Association of Dental Support Organizations; Dr. Richard Huot, chair, Council on

Members Insurance and Retirement Programs; Dr. Donna Thomas-Moses, chair, Council on Dental Education and Licensure; Dr. Kevin Dens, chair, Council on Dental Benefit Programs; Dr. Rebecca De La Rosa, chair, Council on Communications; Dr. Kyle Bogan, chair, Council on Membership; Dr. Meredith Bailey, chair, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs; Dr. Bruce Burton, vice chair, Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs; Dr. Ana Karina Mascarenhas, chair, Council on Scientific Affairs; Dr. Jim Hoddick, chair, Council on Dental Practice; Dr. Manny Chopra, vice chair, Council on Dental Practice; Dr. Seth Walbridge, chair, New Dentist Committee; Dr. Giorgio Di Vincenzo, vice chair, American Dental Political Action Committee; Dr. Jessica Meeske, past chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention; Dr. Mark Bronson, past chair, Council on Government Affairs; Dr. Frank Graham, past chair, Council on Government Affairs; Dr. Darren Greenwell, incoming Sixth District representative, Council on Government Affairs; Dr. Heather Willis, incoming Eleventh District representative, Council on Government Affairs; Ms. Julie Allen, principal, Powers Law Firm; Ms. Gina Goodreau, second vice president, specialty insurance, Protective Life; Mr. Matt Shafer, deputy director, National Center for Interstate Compacts; Mr. Marcus Beauregard, director, Defense-State Liaison Office; Brigadier General Robert Bogart, USAF; Colonel Casey Campbell, USAF; Captain Susan Johnson, USN; Colonel Eric Danko, USA; Colonel Donald Sheets, DoD Health Affairs; Dr. Scott Trapp, deputy to the assistant under secretary for health for dentistry, VA Dentistry; Dr. Christine LaMarre, director of operations, VA Dentistry; Dr. Natalia Chalmers, chief dental officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

July 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Vitale at 12:30 PM EST on Thursday, July 21.

Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Consent Calendar: Upon vote, the Council approved the agenda and consent calendar.

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

Conflict of Interest (Disclosure) Policy: Dr. Vitale referred the Council to the conflict of interest policy in the agendabook and asked the Council to disclose any conflicts.

Welcome and Report of the chair: Dr. Vitale welcomed everyone to the meeting and talked about his work as chair.

Report of the ADA president: Dr. Sabates talked about the New Day for Dentistry campaign, as well as strategic forecasting. He stressed the importance of assisting veterans with their oral health, and of helping new dentists with their student loan debt.

Remarks of the president elect: Dr. Shepley spoke about the ADA's shifts to strategic forecasting and a more inclusive organization.

Report of the Board of Trustees: Dr. Edgar emphasized the importance of sharing information with dentists about the work of the ADA, including on government affairs.

Presentation and Discussion with the Association of Dental Support Organizations: Mr. McGinnis discussed the membership and work of the Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO). The ADA and ADSO collaborate on many issues including dental insurance reform, licensure, and Medicaid.

Chair and vice chair elections: The candidates gave brief remarks. Dr. Gesek was elected chair and Dr. Kent was elected vice chair.

Presentation and Discussion on Value/Values: Dr. Preble spoke about the comments the ADA is preparing on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Medicare medically necessary proposal. Mr. Graham talked about the ADA's focus on value/values: initiatives that provide dentists with a return on value for their membership and that also reflect members' values.

Remarks by Dentist Member of Congress: Dr. Babin spoke about dentistry, Congress' work on issues such as the economy and the pandemic, and the ADA annual session in Houston.

Presentation and Discussion on Operating Room Access: Ms. Allen shared that CMS recently issued a proposed rule that would increase the facility fee for dental surgeries in hospital operating rooms. She described the ADA's advocacy on this issue, including its continuing work to ensure access to dental surgeries in ambulatory surgical centers.

July 22, 2022

Dr. Vitale called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM EST on Friday, July 22.

Presentation and Discussion Led by the ADA Health Policy Institute: Dr. Vujicic emphasized that dentistry is at a fork in the road. The ADA needs to decide if it is okay with only half the population going to the dentist because the rest do not think they can afford it, if dentistry wants to be viewed by the government as essential, and if dentistry wants to partner with medical providers to integrate care.

Presentation and Discussion Led by the ADA executive director: Dr. Cohlma stressed that if the ADA continues on the path that it is currently on, it will be nonexistent within 25 years. Changes in the dental workforce mean that the ADA has to change as well. These changes include the focus on value/values; the ADA app; the Aptify replacement; the focus on diversity, equity and inclusion; strategic forecasting and mission-based budgeting; and a membership loyalty system.

Update and Discussion on Congress and Lobbying: Mr. Tampio, Ms. Fisher, Ms. Hales, and Ms. Mortimer said that even though Congress is not likely to do much on dentistry before the elections, the lobbyists are continuing to work on issues such as Medicaid, appropriations, the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act, non-covered services, student loan reform, and McCarran Ferguson. The lobbyists asked CGA to develop policy on issues that Congress is asking the ADA's opinion on, including immigrant dentists, retirement benefits, taxes, and veterans dental benefits.

Report of the State Public Affairs Oversight Workgroup and Discussion: Mr. Olson talked about the work of the State Public Affairs (SPA) Oversight Workgroup in administering grants to the state dental associations. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Rossetto spoke about state legislative activity on dental insurance reform and the dental workforce. Lastly, Mr. Olson discussed the Massachusetts ballot measure on medical loss ratio (MLR).

Military Workgroup: Dr. Trapp and Dr. LaMarre presented on VA dentistry, including its accomplishments and challenges. Dr. Miller spoke about the Workgroup's charge statement and work, including putting together a reserve/guard toolkit, supporting the VETSmile pilot program, and the development of policy on supporting increased resources for Department of Veterans Affairs dental care. Upon vote, the Council approved the policy.

- **Resolved**, that the ADA supports the Veterans Administration Dental Services' endeavors to achieve optimal oral health for veterans through:
 - An increase in funding, specifically dedicated to Veteran Administration dental services, that is sufficiently funded by Congress and administered to ensure access to care and improving the oral health of veterans.

In-Office Dental Plans Workgroup: Dr. Hisel and Mr. O'Connor discussed the development and dissemination of the Workgroup's advocacy toolkit for state societies. Dr. Hisel asked CGA members to see if the states in their district already have laws on direct primary care agreements, and if not, how CGA members can help the state dental associations to advocate for those laws.

Council on Dental Practice chair Report and Discussion on Workforce Shortages: Dr. Hoddick gave an overview of the Council on Dental Practice's (CDP) four subcommittees. Dr. Hoddick and Dr. Alberti talked about CDP's work on family and medical leave. CDP voted not to support CGA's draft policy, but

CDP developed a website on state laws on family and medical leave. Ms. Call spoke about CDP's response to the dental team workforce shortages.

Labor Issues Workgroup: Dr. Roberts described the Workgroup's activities, including naming Dr. Kent to the CDP subcommittee working on the dental team workforce shortages. Additionally, Dr. Roberts talked about the Workgroup's development of a proposed policy on family and medical leave. The Workgroup voted to rescind the policy after CDP and the New Dentist Committee (NDC) opposed it.

Orientation Workgroup: Dr. Stanislav described the changes the Workgroup had made to refine the orientation process for new CGA members, including developing a mentorship program and guidelines, hosting additional orientation sessions by Zoom, and sharing ADA organizational charts. He also described the orientation timeline. Upon vote, the Council approved the amended orientation process.

- **Resolved**, the amended orientation process for new CGA members is adopted.

Report of the Alliance of the American Dental Association: Ms. Hadnot spoke about changes to the membership of the Alliance, as well as its work on legislative advocacy, dental health outreach, and dentist and family wellbeing.

Council on Membership: Dr. Bogan talked about the Council on Membership's proposed policy on dental team membership in the ADA. The purpose of this resolution is to foster inclusivity among the dental team, support solutions for the workforce shortage, and provide tangible products and services that support the dental team's career, financial, and wellness needs.

Council on Scientific Affairs: Dr. Mascarenhas presented on the Council on Scientific Affairs' (CSA) proposed policy on research funding advocacy and asked for CGA's support. CGA discussed the wording and meaning of the resolution. A motion was made to support the resolution. That motion was withdrawn. Upon vote, CGA approved supporting the concept of the resolution.

- **Resolved**, CGA supports the concept of the Council on Scientific Affairs' resolution on research funding advocacy.

Presentation and Discussion on Licensure Compacts: Dr. Thomas-Moses gave an overview of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure's (CDEL) work on licensure reform. Mr. Shafer and Mr. Beauregard talked about the licensure compact for dentistry and dental hygiene that is currently under development by The Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense.

CAAP chair Report and Discussion on Health Equity: Dr. Gupta described the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention's (CAAP) work, including on programs with a public health focus and collaboration with medical groups. Dr. Lense spoke about health equity, and Ms. Cantor presented on Action for Dental Health initiatives.

Medicaid Task Force and Public Insurance Workgroup: Dr. Chalmers gave an overview of CMS, including its work on Medicaid, health equity, benefit expansion, chronic pain, dental services data, surprise billing, and payment models. Dr. Bronson discussed the Medicaid Task Force's ideas for reform (on both the federal and state levels) on credentialing, reimbursement, benefit design, and audits. Dr. Blake talked about the Workgroup's ongoing discussions on Medicare and Medicaid.

July 23, 2022

Dr. Vitale called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM EST on Saturday, July 23.

Presentations by the Federal Dental Services:

- General Bogart spoke about the Air Force Dental Service, including its training programs, retention, response to COVID-19 and the Afghan refugees, and diversity and inclusion.
- Captain Johnson discussed the Navy Dental Corps, which is part of One Navy Medicine. Navy Medicine has four priorities: people, platforms, performance, and power.

- Colonel Danko gave an update on the Army Dental Corps, including its Dental Care System and Ready Dental Force.
- Colonel Sheets talked about the Defense Health Agency (DHA). The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 directed the transition of administration and management from the military departments to the DHA. Colonel Sheets talked about the opportunities and strategic priorities for the dental components of the DHA.

Presentations by the Council chairs and vice chairs:

- Dr. Bailey spoke about the initiatives of the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA), including its review of the Governance Manual, as well as its student video contest, podcast, and SmileCon events. She also talked about CEBJA's response to Resolution 106 on revising the delegate apportionment methodology.
- Dr. Huot said that the Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs (CMIRP) is worried about the decline in ADA membership for new dentists and dentists over age 50, which are the two groups that most need the ADA's insurance and retirement products.
- Dr. Dens discussed the concerns of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP) about Delta Dental's quality scores. He also talked about CDBP's work on coding.
- Dr. De La Rosa spoke about the charge of the Council on Communications, which is to provide the dentist perspective when communicating member value. Additionally, she described the work of the Council's four Workgroups. The Council is developing a plan to communicate a culture of change within the ADA.
- Dr. Thomas-Moses talked about licensure reform and the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE). She also discussed CDEL's work on the recognition of specialties, special needs dentistry, interest areas in general dentistry, and pediatric pain control and sedation.

Report of the American Dental Political Action Committee: Dr. Di Vincenzo presented on the American Dental Political Action Committee's (ADPAC) work, which includes raising money, distributing contributions, grassroots advocacy, and political education. He emphasized that raising money is ADPAC's most important function. Additionally, he spoke about the Dentist and Student Lobby Day.

Report of the New Dentist Committee: Dr. Walbridge discussed the role of the NDC, which focuses on advising the Board of Trustees and giving their peers a voice. He described ways CGA and NDC can work together, including getting to know NDC and understanding their issues of interest, inviting new dentists to tell their story, connecting with the NDC representative from the district, recognizing the work of new dentists, and inviting new dentists to Lobby Day. Dr. Feldman talked about the membership numbers for new dentists and what dental students want from the ADA.

Discussion on Student Loan Reform: Ms. Mortimer talked about Congressional bills on student loan reform, including a possible House of Representatives package on student loan reform that may include some of the ADA's priorities like the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act. Such a package is unlikely to pass the Senate during this Congressional session, but a few, targeted student loan bills may pass during the next Congressional session. Mr. Burns spoke about regulatory student loan reform proposals, including reform of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and the elimination of interest capitalization on student loans.

Admiral Ricks Video: Admiral Ricks thanked CGA and the federal dental services representatives. He talked about CGA's support of the federal dental services' priorities. He also highlighted a few upcoming challenges, such as fluoridation, dental amalgam, and oral health equity.

Discussion on Annual Session and House of Delegates: Dr. Vitale talked about the resolutions that CGA is bringing to the House and asked CGA members if they were delegates or alternate delegates. He also said that CGA will plan a social event at the House.

Discussion of CGA Priorities: Dr. Gesek emphasized the importance of achieving tangible results next year. CGA discussed possible Council priorities and Workgroups, including labor and workforce issues, dental insurance reform, Medicaid, Medicare, veterans, retirement plans, and student loan reform.

New Business and/or Open Forum: The Council discussed the high prices of personal protective equipment (PPE). Upon vote, the Council approved the policy on taxation.

- **Resolved,** that the American Dental Association oppose tax policies that would unduly burden dental practice, and support tax policies that would benefit all dental practices.

After the CGA meeting, the tax policy was revised to read as follows:

- **Resolved,** that the American Dental Association oppose tax policies that would unduly burden the practice of dentistry, and support tax policies that would benefit dentists.

Upon vote, the Council agreed to rescind the policy voted on at the meeting, and approve the revised policy.

The CGA meeting was adjourned by Dr. Vitale at 12:11 PM EST on July 23, 2022.

**Council on Government Affairs
Unofficial Report of Major Actions
July 21-23, 2022**

The Council on Government Affairs (CGA) met in the ADA's Washington, D.C. office on July 21-23, 2022. The following is a summary of the major actions undertaken by the Council:

1. The Council elected its 2022-2023 chair and vice chair. Dr. Dan Gesek will be chair and Dr. Leigh Kent will be vice chair.
2. The Council voted to approve a resolution on supporting increased resources for Department of Veterans Affairs dental care.
3. The Council voted to approve the process for orienting new members of the Council.
4. The Council voted to approve the concept of the Council on Scientific Affairs' (CSA) resolution on research funding advocacy.
5. The Council voted to approve a resolution on tax policy.

Council Members:

Dr. Mark Vitale, chair, NJ
Dr. Dan Gesek, vice chair, FL
Dr. Abe Abdul, MA
Dr. John Blake, CA
Dr. Darren Chamberlain, UT
Dr. David Clemens, WI
Dr. Matthew Cohlma, OK
Dr. Mark Crabtree, VA
Dr. Doug Erickson, MN
Dr. Steve Feldman, DC
Dr. John Hisel, ID
Dr. Leigh Kent, AL
Dr. Raymond Miller, NY
Dr. John Roberts, IN
Dr. Matthew Roberts, TX
Dr. Leon Stanislav, TN
Dr. James Tauberg, PA
Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry, IL

Liaisons:

Dr. Brad Barnes, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee, IL
Dr. Linda Edgar, trustee-liaison, Eleventh Trustee District, WA
Dr. Shailee Gupta, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, TX
Ms. Sue Hadnot, Alliance of the American Dental Association, MT
Dr. Jake Holtzmann, American Student Dental Association, CO

The Council will meet on January 19-21, 2023.