

**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 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, 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 Cohlma, 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.