

**Council on Government Affairs
Unofficial Report of Major Actions
August 14-15, 2020**

The Council on Government Affairs (CGA) met virtually on August 14-15, 2020. The following is a summary of major actions taken by the Council:

1. The Council elected its 2020-2021 chair and vice-chair. Dr. David White will be chair and Dr. Mark Vitale will be vice-chair.
2. The Council discussed in-office dental plans and heard a presentation by Mr. Landon Lemoine, vp of Growth at Bento. CGA agreed to form a Workgroup on in-office dental plans and work with other Councils on this issue.
3. The Council voted in support of a resolution on Diagnostic Testing by Dentists.
4. The Council voted in support of a resolution on Vaccine Administration by Dentists.
5. The Council received an update from the Indian Health Service/Public Health Service Workgroup. The Council also heard a presentation by Rear Admiral Timothy Ricks, deputy director of the Indian Health Service Division of Oral Health.
6. The Council discussed the policy resolutions the Council is sending to the House of Delegates and agreed to assign members of the Council who are delegates to each of these resolutions.
7. The Council discussed the recommendations of the Orientation Workgroup, including:
 - Creating CGA-specific orientation modules,
 - Establishing a mentorship program,
 - Developing best practices to facilitate communications between incoming and outgoing Council members,
 - Providing biographies of Council members,
 - Creating a calendar of expectations and duties for Council members,
 - Clarifying that in fulfilling their fiduciary duty the Council members can take into account their district but their ultimate duty is to act in the best interest of the ADA as a whole in the member's considered opinion, and
 - Holding a virtual event for the Council before the House of Delegates.
8. The Council received an update from the Veterans Workgroup on the VA Innovation Center pilot program on dental care, as well as the ADA's planned Give Veterans a Smile Summit. The Workgroup also discussed issues it could work on in the future, including reservist dentists, remuneration of VA dental services, funding for VA research in dentistry, and the well being of VA dentists and patients. The Council voted in support of an amended resolution on Resources for Veterans Ineligible for VA Dental Care.
9. The Council received an update from the Teledentistry Workgroup. Council members spoke about Teledentistry legislation and regulations in their states.

10. The Council agreed to develop an online survey where the Council members (and state dental association and caucus leaders, as the Council members feel appropriate) will select ten top priority issues.
11. The Council received an update from the Medicaid Workgroup on its review of the Medicaid policies.
12. The Council discussed the Elder Care Workgroup and agreed to hold a Council call to discuss the Workgroup's recommendations.

CGA Members:

Dr. Phillip Fijal, chair, IL
Dr. David White, vice chair, NV
Dr. Deborah Bishop, AL
Dr. John Blake, CA
Dr. David Clemens, WI
Dr. Matthew Cohlma, OK
Dr. Mark Crabtree, VA
Dr. Mark Desrosiers, CT
Dr. John Hisel, ID
Dr. Zacharias Kalarickal, FL
Dr. Matthew Messina, OH
Dr. Raymond Miller, NY
Dr. John Reitz, PA
Dr. Matthew Roberts, TX
Dr. Adam Shisler, TX
Dr. Leon Stanislav, TN
Dr. Mark Vitale, NJ
Dr. Emily Willett, NE

Liaisons:

Dr. Kate McPherson, American Student Dental Association, NC
Dr. George Shepley, Trustee-Liaison, Fourth Trustee District, MD
Ms. Janette Sonnenberg, Alliance of the American Dental Association, UT
Dr. Richard Stevenson, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, FL
Dr. David Watson, chair, American Dental Political Action Committee, SC

The Council will meet January 28-30, 2021.