

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL ON ADVOCACY FOR ACCESS AND PREVENTION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) was called to order by Dr. James Mancini, CAAP chair at 8:30am, Central time, Thursday January 12, 2023 in Washington DC

**ROLL CALL**

**Members:** Dr. Karen Arsenault, (2023), First District; Dr. Karin Burdette, (2026), Fifteenth District, Dr. Stephen Cochran, (2024), Seventeenth District, Dr. Molly Conlon, (2025) Ninth District, Dr. Elizabeth Clemente, (2024), Fourth District, Dr. Chris Delecki (2024), Eleventh District, Dr. Huong Le, (2025) Thirteenth District ; Dr. Kathryn Kosten, (2025), Eighth District; Dr. James Mancini, Chair, (2023), Third District; Dr. Robert Margolin, (2024), Second District, Dr. Rodney Marshall, (2025), Dr. Emily Mattingly, (2026), Sixth District; Dr. Greg Millwood, (2026), Sixteenth District, Dr. Jackie Nord, (2025), Tenth District, Dr. Jessica Robertson, (2025) Fourteenth District, Dr. Nick Rogers, (2026), Twelfth District Dr. Elizabeth Simpson, Vice Chair, (2024), Seventh District

**Liaisons:** Dr. Rudy Liddell, ADA Board of Trustees, Seventeenth District; Mr. Greg Mitro, Alliance of the American Dental Association; Dr. Alexandra Otto, Committee on the New Dentist, Ms. Olivia Carroll, American Student Dental Association. Dr. Dan Gesek, Chair, council on Government Affairs (CGA), Dr. Leigh Kent, vice chair, Council on Governmental Affairs (CGA)

**Council Staff:** Mr. Michael Graham, senior vice president, Government & Public Affairs; Dr. Jane S. Grover, senior director; Dr. Emma Thomas, manager, Access, Community Oral Health Infrastructure and Capacity; Ms. Kelly Cantor, manager, Preventive Health Activities; Dr. Elizabeth Lense, manager, Health Equity and Prevention; Me. Matt Zaborowski, manager, Preventive Activities, Mr. Jon Zink, Action for Dental Health coordinator and Mr. Earl Sewell, Council Administrative Manager.

**Other ADA Staff in attendance for all or portions of the meeting,** include: Dr. Ray Cohlma, ADA Executive Director, Mr. Chad Olson, Director, State Government Affairs, Mr. Paul O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, Department of State Government Affairs; Matt Rossetto, legislative liaison, Department of State Government Affairs, Mr. C. Michael Kendall, Senior Associate General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs; Ms. Katherine Merullo, Senior Manager, Manager, Public Affairs and Analysis, Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi, Director, Council on Government Affairs, Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, Vice President, Practice Institute, Dr. Marko Vujcic, Vice President, Health Policy Institute, Ms. Cathy Albrecht, Senior Associate Legal Counsel

**Special Guests:** Dr. Natalia Chalmers, Chief Dental Officer, Center for Medicare and Medicaid, Ms. Cat Oakar, Special Advisor to President Biden on Public Health and Disparities, Dr. Tim Ricks, Dental Public Specialist, Indian Health Service, Dr. Adam Barefoot, HRSA Chief Dental Officer, Dr. Rich Herman, Chair, CAAP Culture of Safety Workgroup, Dr. Tom Gallagher, faculty, University of

Washington Medical School, Department of Patient Safety; Dr. Giorgio DiVincenzo, Chair, American Dental Political Action Committee

**ADA Disclosure Policy:** Prior to conducting any business, Dr. Mancini referenced the ADA Disclosure Policy printed in the agenda and called for disclosures. No disclosures were made.

**Approval of the Agenda and Consent Calendar:** The Agenda and Consent Calendar was approved

**Report of the Executive Director:** Dr. Ray Cohlma, ADA Executive Director, shared insights with the Council on membership status and the business concepts currently launched which include the new phone app for members. He covered the importance of the ADA relationship with dental schools and the future direction which the Strategic Forecasting group will be taking to streamline governance.

**Report of the Senior Vice President:** Mr. Michael Graham relayed to the Council the current status of legislative activity in Washington and the opportunities the ADA has going forward with the newly elected officials. He outlined the key areas which will be topics / talking points for the upcoming Lobby Day with student members,

**Report of the ADA Trustee Liaison:** Dr. Rudy Liddell shared his interest in knowing more about CAAP programs and Action for Dental Health initiatives. He updated the Council on upcoming Board meetings and the opportunity to educate others on dental public health programs.

**Report of the Senior Director:** Dr. Jane Grover greeted the new Council members and updated everyone on the new Subcommittee titles / charters for CAAP. She also offered support for any member who will be making a presentation to their Districts or local component societies on programs such as CDHC, ED Referral, Health Equity and National Children's Dental Health Month.

**Report of the Chair:** Dr. Jim Mancini called upon every Council member to promote activities of the Council within their Districts in a variety of ways, including sharing the CAAP Monthly Update. He also shared the membership opportunities he experienced at the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) annual meeting while participating in talking to health center dentists at the ADA booth.

**Report of State Government Affairs:** Mr. Chad Olson, Director of SGA, covered the outcomes of the recent Massachusetts ballot initiative related to Medical-Loss ratios of dental financing programs. He also shared aspects of the steps other states may take in pursuing this challenge from a regulatory point rather than a ballot initiative.

**Report of the Council on Governmental Affairs:** Dr. Dan Gesek shared activities and workgroup priorities of CGA which included improving access to care for veterans, legislation which grants dental licensing relief for dentist military spouses, and promoting a practice coverage toolkit for reservist dentists who are called into service.

**Report of the Health Policy Institute (HPI):** Dr. Marko Vujcic, Vice President of the HPI, presented a workforce and Medicaid participation update from data collected over the summer. Key findings included the likelihood of high volume Medicaid dentists being non-white, affiliated with an FQHC and in rural areas. Racial and ethnic differences in Medicaid participation are not accounted for simply by

where dentists locate their offices and practice modality matters a great deal. Larger group practices are more likely to participate in Medicaid.

**Report of the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA):** Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, Vice President of the Center for Practice Policy, covered much of the information contained in the DQA Annual Report while Dr. Rob Margolin stressed the value of the Council members understand how the quality indicators will be utilized in the future.

**These reports were informational only and no action was requested.**

**Special Order of Business:** Dr. Natalia Chalmers, Chief Dental Officer of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), shared a report with the Council titled “Oral Health: An Evidence and Data-Driven Approach to Achieve Better Health Equity and Fiscal Responsibility”.

She shared the Vision and Strategic Pillars to advance Health Equity, Expand Access, Engage Partners, Drive Innovation, Protect Programs and Foster Excellence. Her presentation included how there are cross cutting initiatives to improve Health Equity particularly in the areas of maternal health, rural health and supporting healthcare resiliency.

She also covered aspects of Emergency Department visits dental issues, the proportion of patients with both medical / dental visits trends and an overview of healthcare spending in both medical and dental spheres.

**Special Order of Business:** Ms. Cat Oakar, Special Advisory to the President on Public Health and Disparities, shared the details of a recent White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.

A goal of the Administration is to end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030 – all while reducing disparities. She revealed that in 2021, 1 in 10 households experienced food insecurity.

Additional goals include an intention to integrate nutrition and health, empower consumers to make and have healthier choices, improve food access and affordability, and expand “food is medicine” interventions to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

**Special Order of Business:** Dr. Tim Ricks, Dental Public Health Specialist in the Indian Health Service, updated the Council on the Healthy People 2030 Oral Health Objective Promotion Webinar Series. The plan is to promote each HP 203 oral health objective through partnership with key oral health and public health organizations through a series of national webinars.

Dr. Ricks also indicated that initiatives will be announced soon about dental screenings within primary care delivery spaces to maximize medical-dental collaboration.

**These reports were informational and no action was requested.**

After hearing the presentations, the Council took an opportunity for strategic discussion to cover various aspects of possible actions and future resolutions for policy considerations.

**Report of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA):** Ms. Victoria Carroll, shared the overall ASDA Strategic Plan for the next few years which included mentorship recognition, Chapter engagement and dedication to public service paired with community building.

**Report of the Alliance:** Mr. Greg Mitro, Alliance rep to the Council, explained the role the Alliance plays in promoting the overall health of the dental community. Additional focus areas of the Alliance include community oral health promotion, and Healthy Smiles from the Start (maternal / child oral health).

Additionally, the Alliance has launched a wellness ambassador program to support mental health counseling and compassion for dental students, dentists and their families.

**Report of the Medicaid Implementation Subcommittee:** Dr. Stephen Cochran, Chair, updated the Council on the name change for the Subcommittee to better reflect the focus of the group.

Upon vote, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Council:

**Resolved**, that the Subcommittee formerly known as Access and Advocacy will now be titled Medicaid Implementation Subcommittee and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Subcommittee Charter be approved

**Special Order of Business:** Dr. Tom Gallagher, Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Medicine at the University of Washington, Center for Patient Care Quality and Safety, shared survey results from several dentist focus groups on safety topics. The topics included types of patient safety events, talking to patients about treatment complications as well as sharing adverse outcomes with peers.

Educational modules are being developed to be used in educating dentists about the value of transparency in patient safety in addition to the ability to conducting conversations with peers to enhance culture of safety. To move this project forward, the Subcommittee posed a resolution of support.

Upon vote, the Council unanimously approved the following:

**Resolved**, that \$180,000 be allocated for the development of a comprehensive educational program by the ADA Culture of Safety in Dentistry Workgroup in order to continue to address the intention of Resolution 78H-2019, Culture of Safety in Dentistry (*Trans.* 2019:333).

**Report of the Access to Care Subcommittee:** Dr. Chris Delecki, Chair, updated the Council on the name change of the Subcommittee as well as the importance of programs such as ED Referral, Community Dental Health Coordinator and stressed the importance of the newly formed HPV Stakeholder Group to promote an additional layer of medical-dental collaboration.

Upon vote, the Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

**Resolved:** that the Subcommittee formerly known as Prime will now be titled Access to Care Subcommittee and be it further

**Resolved:** that the Subcommittee charter be approved

**Report of the Public Health and Prevention Subcommittee:** Dr. Karin Arsenault, Chair, shared the progress of the initiatives of this year for the Subcommittee as well as the new name for the Subcommittee. The 2023 initiatives include prevention strategies of vulnerable populations, education and awareness of silver diamine fluoride as a prevention tool and expanding adolescent and school based oral care.

She also shared the metrics of the Sports Dentistry webinar, efforts to promote tobacco / vaping cessation in dental offices using available Quit lines in state and regional areas as well as the continuing infographic design with the Health Policy Institute on the sealant campaign.

Dr. Chris Delecki, Chair of the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC), updated the Council on the resources available to address community water fluoridation challenges. He also shared the focus of NFAC this year to update Fluoridation Facts, the premier guide to science and social impact on this topic.

Upon vote, the Council unanimously approved the following \:

**Resolved,** that the Subcommittee formerly known as Prevention now be titled Public Health and Prevention and be it further

**Resolved,** that the Subcommittee charter be approved.

**Report of the American Dental Political Action Committee:** Dr. Giorgio DiVincenzo, Chair, gave the Council a historical overview of advocacy efforts related to patients and the profession. He also shared the mechanism of bringing the 200,000 dentist voices to legislators as issues arise which frequently can impact access to care for patients. He revealed that the ADPAC podcase, Tooth Talk, averages 1500 downloads per month.

**Report of the HRSA Chief Dental Officer (CDO) :** Dr. Adam Barefoot, newly appointed COD of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), covered the organizational aspects of the agency which impact oral health programs. He specifically mentioned relevant tools and resources to support oral health infrastructure and his role with strategic engagement and partnership building.

He featured some details of Health Professional Shortage Areas and the current challenges of dental staffing in rural areas. His forecast regarding health centers was optimistic, with predictions of more integrated care teams between medical-dental departments. His role is within the Office of Strategic Initiatives, established in 2021.

**These reports were informational only and no action was requested**

**Report of the Committee on the New Dentist (CND):** Dr. Alexandria Otto shared news from the Committee which included the interests ongoing in blogs about sugar/nutrition, Age One dental visits and ED Referral programs.

She also mentioned the Success Program and the potential for CAAP to collaborate with the CND regarding modules on patient safety. The Institute for Diversity in Leadership program was also highlighted as a key interest area for this group.

**Report of the Presidential Medicaid Task Force –** Dr. Mark Bronson, ADA First Vice President and Chair of the Task Force updated the Council members with broad based state improvements made to state Medicaid programs. He covered the core concepts the Task Force heard from Dr Natalia Chalmers, Chief Dental Officer of the Center for Medicare / Medicaid (CMS) and the report coming soon from the Office of Burden Reduction which will share barriers to care mentioned in a survey of beneficiaries.

**Report of the Chairs of Communications, Dental Practice and Dental Benefit Programs :** The Chairs of these Councils gave highlights of their Council priorities for the upcoming year.

**Old Business:** There was no old business

**New Business:** There was no new business

**Review of Future Council Meeting Dates:** Future Council meeting dates are July 14-15 2023 and January 11-12 2024

