

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
ADA OFFICE, WASHINGTON, DC
JANUARY 19-21, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) was called to order by Dr. Dan Gesek, CGA chair, at 12:30 PM EST on January 19, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Members: (District 1) Dr. Abe Abdul, 2024; (District 2) Dr. Ray Miller, 2023; (District 3) Dr. James Tauberg, 2025; (District 4) Dr. Elisa Velazquez, 2026; (District 5) Dr. Leigh Kent, vice chair, 2024; (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. Heather Willis, 2026; (District 12) Dr. David Hildebrandt, 2026; (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, chair, 2024; (New Dentist Member) Dr. Sean Aiken, 2023.

Liaisons: (Board of Trustees) Dr. Gary Oyster, sixteenth district trustee; (Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention) Dr. Jim Mancini, chair; (American Dental Political Action Committee) Dr. Giorgio Di Vincenzo, chair; (Alliance of the American Dental Association) Ms. Sue Hadnot; (American Student Dental Association) Ms. Nicole Anderson.

Not In Attendance: (District 6) Dr. Darren Greenwell, 2026.

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. George Shepley, president; Dr. Linda Edgar, president-elect; Dr. Raymond Cohlma executive director; Mr. Robert Quashie, chief operating officer; Dr. Dave Preble, chief strategy officer, senior vice president, Practice Institute; Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, senior vice president, Practice Institute; 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; Ms. Alison Weems, administrative assistant, State Government Affairs; Ms. Katherine Merullo, senior manager, Public Affairs and Analysis; Ms. Jennifer Garvin, Washington editor, ADA News; Dr. Marko Vujicic, chief economist and vice president, Health Policy Institute; Mr. Chris Tampio, director, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Jennifer Fisher, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Natalie Hales, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Ms. Megan Mortimer, lobbyist, Congressional Affairs; Dr. Elizabeth Lense, manager, Equity and Prevention; Dr. Tony Ziebert, senior vice president, Education and Professional Affairs; Ms. Karen Hart, senior director, Education Operations; Dr. Meaghan Strotman, director, Council on Dental Education and Licensure; Ms. Sandy Eitel, senior director, research, analytics, and member growth; Ms. Sarah Milligan, director, American Dental Political Action Committee; Mr. Peter Aiello, senior manager, American Dental Political Action Committee and Political Affairs; Mr. Michael Kendall, senior associate general counsel, Legal Affairs; Mr. Paul Sholty, chief financial officer; Ms. Kathy Clary, manager, Business Administrative Services; Ms. Molly Savory, intern.

Special Guests: Dr. Jeff Van Drew, representative, Second Congressional District of New Jersey; Dr. Adam Barefoot, chief dental officer, Health Resources and Services Administration; Dr. Natalia Chalmers, chief dental officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Dr. Mark Bronson, chair, ADA

Presidential Task Force on Medicaid; Dr. Jessica Meeske, vice chair, ADA Presidential Task Force on Medicaid; Dr. James Nickman, chair, Council on Dental Education and Licensure; Dr. Prabha Krishnan, chair, Council on Communications; Dr. Sharukh Khajotia, chair, Council on Scientific Affairs; Dr. Stacey Gardner, vice chair, Council on Dental Benefit Programs; Dr. Manny Chopra, chair, Council on Dental Practice; Dr. Debra Peters, vice chair, Council on Ethics, Bylaws, and Judicial Affairs; Dr. Nipa Thakkar, chair, Council on Membership.

January 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Gesek at 12:30 PM EST on January 19, 2023.

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

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

Conflict of Interest (Disclosure) Policy: Dr. Gesek asked the Council members to fill out the conflict of interest and non-disclosure forms. He also requested that they disclose any conflicts during the meeting.

2024 Council Elections and Meeting Dates: Dr. Gesek announced the elections for the 2024 CGA chair and vice chair. He also asked the Council if there were any conflicts with the proposed 2024 meeting dates. Upon hearing of a potential conflict, Dr. Gesek said that the Council would postpone voting on the meeting dates.

Welcome and Report of the chair: Dr. Gesek gave examples of issues the Council has been working on, and will continue to focus on, including Medicaid, hospital operating room access, veterans, and dental insurance reform.

Report of the ADA president: Dr. Shepley spoke about the need for the ADA be bold. He spoke about his plans for 2023, including the Task Forces on ERISA, dental support organizations (DSOs), and sugar and nutrition. He also talked about his meeting with Senator Bernie Sanders on the dental team workforce shortages.

Remarks by Congressman Van Drew: Representative Van Drew said there will be a lot of activity on Capitol Hill in 2023. He answered questions from the Council on issues including partisanship in the House of Representatives, the healthcare workforce shortages, the debt ceiling, and Medicare Advantage.

Report of the senior vice president and director: Mr. Graham and Ms. Yaghoubi spoke about the ADA's government affairs accomplishments in 2022, and urged the Council to share information about this work with dentists in their states and districts. They emphasized that the ADA is on the offense and is well positioned to continue to make a difference in Washington in 2023.

Report of the Board of Trustees: Dr. Oyster talked about the board's work on diversity and inclusion, with dental students, and on increasing the ADA's membership.

Discussion on Strategic Alignment: Dr. Preble spoke about the ADA's strategic alignment across the public/profession customer group. Additionally, he discussed the need to focus on, and measure, impact.

Presentation on Massachusetts Ballot Initiative: Dr. Abdul and Mr. Olson talked about the Massachusetts ballot initiative on Medical Loss Ratio (MLR), including the support for the initiative from the ADA and the state dental associations. They also discussed other states that are now working on MLR legislation.

Report on State Government Affairs and Discussion: Mr. Olson spoke about the State Public Affairs (SPA) grant program. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Rossetto talked about legislation in the states on issues

including dental insurance reform, workforce, and the dentist and hygienist licensure compact, as well as the technical assistance the Department of State Government Affairs provides to the state dental associations on those bills. Additionally, Mr. Rossetto talked about the ADA's Native American Initiative.

Report of the Alliance: Ms. Hadnot discussed the work and mission of the Alliance, including dental health education in communities, legislative advocacy and fundraising, wellness, and philanthropy.

January 20, 2023

Dr. Gesek called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM EST.

Presentation and Discussion Led by the ADA Health Policy Institute: Dr. Vujicic presented the latest data on economic recovery in the dental sector. He also talked about the Health Policy Institute's (HPI) research on dentist participation in Medicaid. Lastly, he discussed long-term trends in dentistry, including the generational divide and the accompanying shift away from practice ownership.

Presentation and Discussion Led by the ADA executive director: Dr. Cohlma emphasized the need for change at the ADA and said it's a new day for dentistry and the ADA. He outlined his goals, including customer-focused governance, collegiality and synergy, and the ADA digital transformation. He described the strategic forecasting implementation plan, and talked about the ADA's five key values: customer/member focus, global presence, sustainability, innovation, and nimbleness.

Report on Public Affairs: Ms. Merullo talked about the Oral Health is Health digital ad campaign, as well as the ADA's earned media coverage on topics such as COVID-19 and marijuana use by dental patients. She also discussed the media coverage on the Massachusetts ballot measure. Ms. Garvin spoke about the top national and state advocacy stories in ADA News.

Update on Congress and Lobbying: Mr. Tampio and Mr. Kendall spoke about ERISA and McCarran-Ferguson reform. Additionally, Ms. Fisher discussed her lobbying on appropriations and health equity. Ms. Mortimer spoke about her lobbying on issues including student loans, the military, veterans, taxes, and small business. Lastly, Ms. Hales talked about her lobbying on Medicaid, fluoride, vaping, and opioids.

Discussion on Student Loan Reform: The Council was briefed on the ADA's student loan reform accomplishments in 2022, including: preventing a reduction in the student loan interest deduction, establishing the Bio-Preparedness Workforce Pilot Program, eliminating interest capitalization on certain student loans, and reforming aspects of the Public Student Loan Forgiveness program. Mr. Burns and Ms. Mortimer also forecasted how student loan reforms might proceed in 2023 with the Biden administration and new Congress.

Report of the American Student Dental Association: Ms. Anderson discussed the American Student Dental Association's (ASDA) membership and initiatives. She also talked about ASDA's advocacy work, including its certificate program, action alerts, webinars, and the Dentist and Student Lobby Day. The Council spoke about ways to mentor dental students and get them interested in advocacy.

Report of the New Dentist Committee: Dr. Aiken sought ideas from CGA on how to give new dentists leadership opportunities and present new dentists with tangible benefits to ADA membership. He also spoke about the New Dentist Committee's (NDC) initiatives on diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as on wellness. He emphasized that the NDC's top priority for CGA is student loan reform.

Update and Discussion on Federal Regulations: Ms. Yaghoubi, Mr. Burns, Mr. McGee, and Mr. Linn talked about the ADA's work on regulations on issues including social media reviews of dental practices, COVID-19, community water fluoridation, Medicare Advantage, and health information technology.

Federal Dental Services Workgroup: Dr. Miller spoke about the Workgroup's activities, including its work on the VETSmile pilot program, reserve/guard toolkit, TRICARE dental program, federal dental

services chief dental officers, and Give Veterans a Smile summit. Upon vote, the amendment to the Workgroup charge statement was approved.

- **Resolved**, the amendment is approved.

Upon vote, the amended charge statement was approved.

- **Resolved**, the amended federal dental services charge statement is approved.

Presentation by a Federal Dental Services Representative: Dr. Barefoot presented on the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) structure and its work on oral health, including Community Health Centers, oral health workforce training programs, the National Health Service Corps, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, maternal and child health, and oral health literacy.

Update from CMS: Dr. Chalmers talked about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) oral health vision, including its focus on equity. She presented CMS data on oral health, and spoke about the need to reduce Emergency Department visits for dental pain. She talked about the connection between oral health and overall health and discussed CMS' recent expansion of postpartum Medicaid dental coverage. She also gave an update on CMS regulations and the ADA's comments on those rules.

Report of the Medicaid Task Force: Dr. Meeske presented on the Medicaid Task Force's reform agenda, including credentialing, funding and reasonable reimbursement, benefit design and administration, appropriate auditing practices with auditor training, coordination of managed care organization (MCO) activities, and best practices and model programs to use as references. She asked CGA to advocate for a comprehensive Medicaid Improvement Act. Dr. Bronson talked about the need to add to the ADA's policies on Medicaid.

January 21, 2023

Dr. Gesek called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM EST.

Public Insurance Advocacy Workgroup: Upon vote, the Workgroup charge statement was approved.

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

The Council discussed Medicare Part T and Medicare medically necessary.

Private Insurance Advocacy Workgroup: Upon vote, the Workgroup charge statement was approved.

- **Resolved**, the Private Insurance Advocacy Workgroup charge statement is approved.

Policy Review Workgroup: Dr. Roberts presented the Policy Review Workgroup's recommendations to retain, rescind, or amend 20 Association policies, in accordance with the policy titled Regular Comprehensive Policy Review (*Trans.*2010:603; 2012:370). The Council agreed to retain nine policies and amend eight policies, pending review by the councils with secondary jurisdiction. The Council also formally voted to rescind three policies, pending review by the councils with secondary jurisdiction. See addendum for more information.

Presentations by Council chairs and vice chairs:

- Dr. Nickman spoke about the Council on Dental Education and Licensure's (CDEL) work on the interstate licensure compact. He also talked about the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE), as well as CDEL's specialty licensing map.
- Dr. Khajotia spoke about the Council on Scientific Affairs' (CSA) work on four areas of priority: the dissemination of high-quality clinical research and tools; growth opportunities for current CSA programs; growing and improving the dental research pipeline; and continuing to use and expand the growth of primary and secondary clinical research data.

- Dr. Chopra spoke about the Council on Dental Practice's (CDP) subcommittees on practice management and policy, elder care, wellness, and technology.
- Dr. Peters spoke about the Council on Ethics, Bylaws, and Judicial Affairs' (CEBJA) work on ethical questions, bylaws review, and judicial hearings.
- Dr. Thakkar spoke about the Council on Membership's (CM) subcommittee on grants, as well as its subcommittee on large groups. She also discussed the Council on Membership's work with other Councils on dental faculty, as well as on having an ADA presence at dental conferences and meetings. Lastly, she discussed the Council's work on philanthropy in dentistry and service-oriented organizations.
- Dr. Gardner spoke about the Council on Dental Benefit Programs' (CDBP) subcommittee on coding and transactions and the enhanced CDT project. She also discussed CDBP's dental benefit information subcommittee.
- Dr. Krishnan spoke about the topics the Council on Communications (CoC) is working on, including its culture of change communication plan, the fourth annual communications trend report, and the Council's Workgroup on communications innovations.

ADPAC Report and Discussion on Lobby Day: Dr. Di Vincenzo presented on the American Dental Political Action Committee's (ADPAC) main functions, which include raising money, raising branding and visibility on Capitol Hill, distributing contributions, political education, and grassroots advocacy. CGA discussed Lobby Day and the issues the dentists and students will be talking about on Capitol Hill.

Report of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention: Dr. Mancini spoke about the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention's (CAAP) areas of bylaws responsibility, as well as the Council's history at the ADA. He also talked about CAAP's subcommittees and its work with other organizations. He highlighted areas of collaboration between CAAP and CGA, including Medicaid reform, community water fluoridation, HRSA grants, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

Report and Discussion on the Health Equity Action Team: Dr. Lense presented on health equity, including CAAP's work with the National Coalition on Health Literacy in Dentistry, the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee, and the Health Equity Action Team. She talked about each of these groups' major health equity initiatives for 2023. She also gave suggestions on how dentists could promote health equity in their dental practice.

Discussion on CGA Priorities: The Council talked about the issues discussed at the meeting, and identified the following as its top priorities for 2023:

- Student loan reform
- Dental insurance reform (both public and private)-assisting the Medicaid task force to advance their directives
 - Access to care:
 - Medicaid reform
 - Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA)
 - Developmental disabilities
- Workforce
- Maximizing funds going towards veterans
- Lead testing

The Council spoke about the need to make sure it was aligning with other Councils on these issues and not duplicating efforts.

New and/or Unfinished Business and Open Forum: Dr. Gesek reminded the Council about future events, including a call with the Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO), Workgroup meetings, Club 137 events, Lobby Day, and the July CGA meeting.

Dr. Gesek adjourned the meeting at 11:33 AM EST on January 21, 2023.