

**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. Cohlmya 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.