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**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ON DENTAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS
ADA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, CHICAGO
May 5-6, 2022**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP) was called to order by Dr. Kevin Dens, chair, on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Boardroom, ADA Headquarters, Chicago, IL.

Roll Call: Drs. Kevin Dens (*chair*), Jessica Stille-Mallah (*vice chair*), Roderick Adams, Jr., Drs. Adrian J. Carrington, William V. Dougherty, Stacey Gardner (via Zoom), Andrew Gazerro, III, Drs. Hadi Ghazzouli, Rodney Hill, Mark Johnston, Susan D. Jolliff, Mark A. Moats, Vishruti Patel, Drs. Eugene G. Porcelli, Eddie Ramirez, L. King Scott, Scott Trapp, Paul Leary (*Trustee*), Drs. J. Luke Andrew (*New Dentist Member*) (not present), and Mr. Sammy Huynh (*ASDA Consultant*)

Practice Institute (PI) Staff in attendance (for all or part of the meeting): Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, Dr. Hana Alberti, Dr. Diptee Ojha, Mr. Frank Pokorny, Ms. Sarah Tilleman, Mr. Sean Layman, Ms. Stacy Starnes and Ms. Nicole Tarbor; **Attending via Zoom:** Mr. Paul Bralower, Ms. Erica Colangelo, Ms. Afton Dunsmoor, Ms. Barbara Ferriter, Mr. Carlos Jones, Ms. Lauren Kirk, Ms. Jean Narcisi, and Ms. Sharon Stanford

Association Staff in attendance (for all or part of the meeting): Dr. Raymond A. Cohlmiia, Mr. Mike Kendall, Mr. Paul O'Connor, Mr. Chad Olson, and Dr. Marko Vujcic; **Attending via Zoom:** Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, Ms. April Kates-Ellison, Ms. Stephanie Moritz, and Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi

Guests Present for Portions of the Meeting: Dr. Cesar R. Sabates, ADA President; **Attending via Zoom:** Dr. Kyle Bogan, chair, Council on Membership (CM); Dr. Shailee Gupta, chair, Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP); Dr. James A. Hoddick, chair, Council on Dental Practice (CDP); and Dr. Rebecca De La Rosa, chair, Council on Communications (CC)

Following the roll call, the presence of a quorum was noted.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement: The Chair referenced the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement included on the agenda and called for disclosures of potential conflicts of interest. None were received.

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Dens referenced one new business item up for discussion, which included the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) request for CDBP to provide input on the draft proposed policy, Expanding Access to Dental Services for Veterans. He noted that the notion of dentistry being essential and what it means is an important consideration in every action taken by the Council. Dr. Dens mentioned that Dr. Cohlmiia would be sharing his vision for the future of oral health and encouraged the Council to engage in this discussion. The Coding and Transactions Subcommittee (CATS) chair moved to withdraw the SNODENT policy change from the agenda.

The Council adopted the agenda as amended by general consent, giving the Chair permission to reorder items as needed.

Approval of Consent Items: A consent calendar was prepared to expedite the business of the Council. Members were given the opportunity to remove any item from the consent calendar for consideration during the meeting.

1 The Council adopted the following resolution:

2 **Resolved**, that the resolutions contained within the following reports be approved by consent.

- 3 • Approval of e-ballot Action Items
4 • Policies to be Retained

5
6 **Resolved**, that the following reports be filed.

- 7 • 2021 CDBP Operating Plan Results
8 • ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics Update
9 • X 12 & HL7 Updates
10 • DQA Activities Update
11 • SNODENT Update
12 • Council Meeting Dates

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14 **Approval of e-ballot Action Items:** The Council adopted the following resolution through the
15 consent calendar.

16 **Resolved**, that the actions approved through e-ballots since the November 2021 Council
17 meeting be recorded in the minutes from this meeting.

18 E-ballot 2021-01:

19 **Resolved**, that the 2021 November CDBP Meeting Minutes be approved.

20 E-ballot 2022-01:

21 **Resolved**, that the 2022 March CDBP Special Meeting Minutes be approved.

22 **ADA Professional Conduct Policy:** Ms. Albrecht, senior associate general counsel, Legal Affairs,
23 enlightened the Council about the Professional Conduct Policy as presented in the Agenda Book.
24 She encouraged members to look at it and revisit the policy. Ms. Albrecht thoroughly explained the
25 purpose and importance of such policy, informing the Council that it is to ensure that the ADA
26 remains compliant with discrimination and harassment laws. She further described how concerns or
27 claims of harassment will be handled within the ADA.

28 **CDBP Chair Remarks:** Dr. Dens noted the diversity of the Council, which brings different
29 perspectives. He encouraged members to keep an open mind and listen to other perspectives, and
30 not to be afraid to change perspectives if warranted.

31 **Trustee Liaison Remarks:** Dr. Leary, trustee liaison, thanked the Council for their commitment and
32 dedication to the work of the Council. He referenced the Board and ADA's interest in Agile
33 Management in an effort to move things forward more quickly and how the work of the Council aligns
34 with strategic forecasting. Dr. Leary encouraged the Council to debate all sides and come to a
35 universal decision. He applauded the Dental Benefit Information Service Subcommittee (DBIS) on the
36 guide developed in response to Resolution 93H-2021. He encouraged the Council to continue the
37 process of critical work on standardizing the EOB and other projects, which has been deemed
38 invaluable. Dr. Leary expressed his pleasure working with the Council.

39 **ADA President Remarks:** Dr. Sabates introduced himself to the new members of the Council and
40 explained his role at the ADA.

41 **Confidentiality:** Dr. Aravamudhan, senior director, Center for Dental Benefits, Coding and Quality
42 (CDBCQ) discussed the importance of confidentiality regarding materials and content discussed at

1 Council meetings. She reminded the Council of the abundance of information available in ADA
2 Connect and stressed the value of keeping states and districts informed about the work of the Council
3 in an appropriate manner.

4 **2022 CDBP Operating Plan Results:** The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an
5 informational report detailing the status of the CDBP 2022 Operating Plan highlighting ongoing and
6 new programs.

7 **RELEVANT ADA INITIATIVES**

8 **Executive Director's Presentation:** Dr. Cohlmya, executive director, introduced himself to the new
9 members of the Council, explaining his role at the ADA. He talked about the new direction of the ADA
10 and creating the future today. He shared his vision and perspective on where we need to be and the
11 evolution of dentistry. Dr. Cohlmya discussed strategic forecasting and what that looks like.

12 **Vision to Achieve Oral health in America:** Dr. Vujcic, chief economist and vice president, Health
13 Policy Institute, joined Dr. Cohlmya in proposing a discussion on the long-term vision for oral health in
14 America. The Council was fully engaged in this thought-provoking discussion. The Council discussed
15 the need for dental care to be perceived as essential health care. Dr. Aravamudhan provided
16 background information on the "Essential Health Benefit" (EHB) as defined in the Affordable Care Act
17 (ACA). She explained what it means to be classified as "essential" under federal and state health
18 policy.

19 The Council believes that dentistry is essential for children and have supported and sought to
20 improve pediatric Medicaid programs. In 2012, pediatric dental benefits were classified as essential
21 health benefits under the ACA but adult dental benefits were not. However, the implication of defining
22 essentialism in dentistry for the various age and population groups has potentially wide-ranging
23 implications as the integration of dental benefits into medical benefits and/or other medical structures
24 is believed to be an up and coming trend. Compounding factors to consider may also include current
25 ADA policy on matters such as dental in the ACA marketplace, poverty levels as it relates to eligibility
26 for adult Medicaid, Medicare, etc. Dr. Aravamudhan encouraged the Council to conduct more
27 research to fully understand the implications.

28 The Council adopted the following resolution:

29 **Resolved**, that research be conducted to assist the Council in better understanding the
30 implications of advocating for dental benefits to be classified as "Essential Health Benefit"
31 under federal and state health policy; and be it further,

32 **Resolved**, that the report be presented to the Council at its November 2022 meeting.

33 **Strategic Discussion Presentation:** Ms. Kates-Ellison, vice president, Member & Client Services
34 and Ms. Moritz, chief marketing & communications officer, Communications and Marketing, briefed
35 the Council on Value and Values—Navigating the Generational Demographic Membership Shift.
36 Ms. Kates-Ellison explained the difference in the terminology and how it aligns with the ADA. She
37 provided information on the shift in generational membership. Ms. Moritz shared results of a qualitative
38 and quantitative study to better understand member and nonmember relationships and how values
39 impact their decision making, perceptions, and behaviors.

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EMERGING ISSUES

2 **Value-Based Payment Models:** Drs. Dens and Aravamudhan provided an educational session on
3 Value-Based Payment Models. Dr. Aravamudhan gave a basic overview of the model, explained the
4 framework and encouraged the Council to be prepared for this change.

5 The Council discussed the ADA's role in these emerging programs and discussed the need to
6 influence their structure in order to positively support patient care and oral health. To this end, the
7 Council discussed the need to encourage dentists to document diagnostic codes within patient
8 records. The Council discussed the ADA's participation in preparation of dentistry-related technical
9 content in the diagnostic coding manual published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
10 (CMS). CMS has expressed interest in ADA contributions. This would be a leadership opportunity for
11 the ADA to define how the HIPAA standard ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes should be used by dentists on
12 dental claim submissions.

13 The Council approved the following resolution:

14 **Resolved,** the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and associated entities that
15 promulgate guidelines for use of ICD-10-CM codes on claims forms be approached to develop
16 guidelines under Chapter 11: Diseases of the Digestive System (K00-K95).

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CLINICAL DATA WAREHOUSE/ REGISTRY

18 **ADA Dental Experience & Research Exchange (DERE):** Dr. Dens and Dr. Ojha, director, Dental
19 Quality Alliance and Clinical Data Registry provided an update on the activities of Dental Experience &
20 Research Exchange (DERE), including a demonstration of the system. Dr. Ojha informed the Council
21 that there were more than 30 practices and more than 260,000 records in the system. The Council
22 was also apprised of the status of additional software vendor integration.

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ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

24 **Eligibility Verification – Clearinghouses' Product Update:** Dr. Johnston and Ms. Tilleman, senior
25 manager, Credentialing and Third Party Payer Advocacy, provided an update on clearinghouses.
26 Following the publication of the "Unified System for Eligibility Verification" feasibility study in
27 July 2021, as directed by Resolution 102H-2020, the Council identified that as of early 2022, two of
28 the largest dental clearinghouses, Change Healthcare and Tesia, are now very close to or have
29 recently started offering specific eligibility and benefits verification technology solutions across the
30 dental marketplace. Each product purports to solve for and improve the accuracy and
31 comprehensiveness of the eligibility and benefits responses dental offices receive from payers by
32 providing real-time status of the patient's benefits. As these companies roll out each of their solutions,
33 the Council will monitor their effectiveness.

34 **Bento:** Dr. Johnston and Ms. Tilleman provided an update on Bento. The software supports both a
35 PPO network for self-funded employer groups and in-office plans for dentists. Dr. Johnston indicated
36 that the adoption of both of Bento's offerings are progressing at a good rate two years into the
37 endorsement. Ms. Tilleman shared a few metrics from successful ADA promotions in Colorado that
38 helped Bento satisfy a new employer group.

39 **Credentialing:** Dr. Johnston and Ms. Tilleman provided an update on CAQH. Overall the program has
40 been successful after four years of increasing participation by dentists with over 80,000 dentists now
41 having created a profile within CAQH ProView.

1 **ANSI/ADA SCDI Update:** The Council received and accepted, through the consent calendar, an
2 informational update on the activities of the Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI)
3 including those relevant SCDI work projects that impact the Council.

4 **X12 & HL7 Update:** The Council accepted, through the consent calendar, an update on the activities
5 related to the Health Level 7 (HL7) and X12 standards committees.

6 **DENTAL BENEFITS**

7 **Report on Payer Conversations:** Drs. Johnston and Dens provided an update on payer conversation
8 from the DBIS meeting in April 2022. Dr. Johnston mentioned that both payers who were invited to
9 meet with the subcommittee initiated separate conversations on value-based care. Also, Dr. Stilley-
10 Mallah provided an update on the Council's annual leadership meeting with the National Association of
11 Dental Plans (NADP). She noted that NADP expressed interest in gaining ADA support to advocate for
12 independent purchase of dental benefits for individuals looking to purchase dental plans only (without
13 purchasing medical insurance) through the ACA Marketplace.

14 **Trends in the Dental Benefits Industry:** Dr. Johnston and Ms. Tilleman provided an informational
15 report on trends in the dental industry.

16 **Resolution 93H-2021 – Developing Safeguards to Protect Employee Dentists:** Resolution 93H-
17 2021 adopted by the House of Delegates (HOD) directed the Council to assess the feasibility of
18 developing guidelines, best practices or other educational resources to assist dentists in assuring
19 accuracy of claim submissions. In response, the Council assessed that it was feasible to develop a
20 guidance document, and then proceeded to complete the next step by developing a new
21 comprehensive resource guide titled, *Assuring Accuracy of Claims as a Treating Dentist*.

22 The Council adopted the following resolution:

23 **Resolved**, that the guide titled, *Assuring Accuracy of Claims as a Treating Dentist*, be
24 approved for dissemination and a response to Resolution 93H-2021 be included in the
25 Council's Annual Report.

26 **Third Party Payer Concierge Service:** Dr. Johnston and Ms. Tilleman provided an overview of the
27 reinstatement of the ADA Third Party Payer Concierge™ service in an effort to lower the burden of
28 answering dental benefit calls from members by state dental association staff. As authorized by
29 Resolution 88H-2021, ADA members are now able to once again contact the ADA to receive
30 individual assistance regarding dental benefit issues. Furthermore, DBIS oversaw the institution of a
31 grant program to leverage state societies to market this service locally. A total of \$50,000 was
32 awarded to 17 states to disseminate information on the Third Party Payer Concierge service. Success
33 of this program will be measured each year based on satisfaction of state dental association staff.

34 **ADA POLICY REVIEW**

35 **Policies to be Retained:** The Council approved the Coding and Transactions Subcommittee (CATS)
36 chair's motion to withdraw the proposed amendment to Development of ADA SNODENT Clinical
37 Terminology (*Trans.* 1995:619; 2013:309) and that this policy be included in the list of those policies
38 recommended to be retained. Approval of the list was through the consent calendar.

39 **Resolved**, that the identified ADA policy recommendations be retained and included in the
40 Council's annual report to the 2022 House of Delegates.

1 **Policy Amendment on Standardized EOB:** Dr. Johnston and Ms. Tilleman discussed the proposed
2 resolution.

3 The Council adopted the following resolution:

4 **Resolved**, that the Council recommend to the HOD that the policy, Legislation to Require
5 Dental Benefit Plans to Provide Dental Consultant Information (*Trans.*2010:546) be rescinded
6 and the policy, Explanation of Benefits (EOB) Statement and Identification of Claims
7 Reviewers (*Trans.*1995:610; 2015:243) be amended.

8 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

9 **Division of Government and Public Affairs—DC Office Report:** Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi, director,
10 Legislative & Regulatory Policy, thanked CDBP members who came to lobby day in DC this past
11 March. It was a very successful event and the first in-person lobby day since 2019. About 400 people
12 attended. She also updated the Council regarding other priority issues that were being discussed at
13 the federal level.

14 **Division of Government and Public Affairs—State Government Affairs Report:** Mr. Olson,
15 director, and Mr. O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, informed the Council about a proactive campaign
16 at the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) seeking dental insurance reform. A dental
17 insurance reform model act was adopted in December 2021 with great success, out of which many
18 new state laws were passed. The 2021 model covered three issues: Prior Authorization, Virtual Credit
19 Cards and Network Leasing. State Government Affairs is ramping up efforts seeking another model for
20 three additional issues, which include retroactive denial, assignment of benefit, and medical loss ratio
21 for dental plans. NCOIL adopted a model bill for non-covered services in 2010. There are up to 42
22 laws now for non-covered services.

23 Mr. O'Connor shared information on dental insurance reform, Medicaid, fluoridation, and health dental
24 literacy. There are about 50 bills currently under discussion in state legislative bodies that can impact
25 dentistry, of that, ten new laws have come out this year in six states so far.

26 **QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT**

27 **DentaQual Update:** Drs. Dens and Aravamudhan informed the Council that the summary of
28 comments from the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) was shared with DeltaDental of California following
29 the Council's action from its special meeting held in March 2022. Dr. Aravamudhan informed the
30 Council that the DQA will meet in June and this will be on the agenda. Council members expressed
31 concerns that members were not adequately informed on this activity from payers. To that end,
32 Council agreed that information related to this issue should be shared with state dental associations
33 and a communication channel be developed to inform membership.

34 The Council approved the following resolution:

35 **Resolved**, that information regarding provider rating systems and the emerging trend to
36 display ratings on provider directories be communicated to state dental association leadership
37 and they be encouraged to speak with carriers locally to discuss these emerging trends.

38 **DQA Activities:** The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on the
39 activities of DQA.

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CODING AND TRANSACTIONS

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CDT Code Modifiers: The Council discussed the interim report submitted by its Enhanced CDT Code Task Force. This report provided recommendations on the project's next steps. These steps included developing a draft set of procedure code modifiers that complement the existing CDT code format (e.g., Dxxxx) and a progress report to be prepared for the next Council meeting.

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The Council adopted the following resolution:

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Resolved, that a draft version of the CDT with modifiers as envisioned by the Enhanced CDT Task Force be developed; and be it further,

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Resolved, that the Task Force be kept updated on progress and be consulted in the development of guidelines for the modifier-based code set; and be it further,

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Resolved, that the Task Force be reconvened after a draft of a modifier-based code set is created to assess utility and implementation costs before making further recommendations regarding implementation plans and timeline.

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Code Maintenance Committee March 2022 Meeting Update: The Council received an oral supplement to the written informational report on the annual Code Maintenance Committee (CMC) meeting activities. This update was a presentation on notable changes to be included in the next CDT Code version effective on January 1, 2023. All CMC approved actions will be in the ADA publication titled, *CDT 2023*.

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Amendment to "Classification of Materials": The Council, as the body responsible for maintaining the CDT manual's classification of materials technical content, discussed an ADA member dentist's request to reconsider the "porcelain/ceramic" definition. As written, the current definition does not accommodate emerging fabrication technologies such as 3D printing.

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The Council approved the following resolution:

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Resolved, that the definition of porcelain/ceramic published in the CDT manual be changed to read as follows –

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Porcelain/ceramic

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Refers to materials containing predominantly inorganic refractory compounds including porcelains, glasses, ceramics, and glass-ceramics.

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29

CDT Code Action Request Guidelines – CATS Recommendations: The Council discussed the Coding and Transactions Subcommittee's recommendation on updating the "Submission and Evaluation Guidelines" that address gaps in the current guidelines. These gaps were revealed during CATS' due diligence review and discussion during the March 2022 CMC meeting. The need to update the guidelines were also identified by the Enhanced CDT Task Force.

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The Council adopted the following resolution:

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Resolved, that the updated CDT Code Action Request "Submission and Evaluation Guidelines" be approved.

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SNODENT Update: The Council approved, through the Consent Calendar, an informational report on SNODENT activities.

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LIAISON/CONSULTANT REPORTS

2 **Report of the American Student Dental Association:** Mr. Sammy Huynh provided information on
3 membership status and the importance of involving dental students in organized dentistry, stressing
4 that these students can continue to be leaders throughout their careers. ASDA Annual Session was
5 held in February, where 11 new board of trustees were elected. By the end of next year, there will be
6 about 69 total chapters with some new schools opening. As a result, redistricting may be needed in the
7 near future. Students are excited about lobby day this year. Bills about student debt and health are
8 really important to students. ASDA Community, an online forum, was launched last year. Dr. Cohlmi
9 solicited insight from dental students for the ADA app. He would like students to take part in the
10 launch. Programs and initiatives were mentioned including, recent webinars, wellness programs, and
11 letters to Congress on multiple issues affecting dental issues.

12 **New Member Dentist Report:** An informational report was provided to the Council.

13

COUNCIL OPERATIONS

14 **Council Meeting Dates:** The Council accepted, through the Consent Calendar, an informational
15 report on upcoming dates for Council meetings.

16 **Election of Council Chair:** The Council elected, by acclamation, Dr. Jessica Stilley-Mallah, 17th
17 district, to serve as CDBP Chair until the close of the 2023 meeting of the ADA House of Delegates.

18 **Election of Council Vice-Chair:** The Council elected, by acclamation, Dr. Stacey Gardner, 5th
19 district, to serve as CDBP vice-chair until the close of the 2023 meeting of the ADA House of
20 Delegates.

21 **Guest Council Chair Presentations:** Chairs from the CAAP, CC, CDP, and CM provided updates on
22 activities and programs. The Council was briefed on resolutions, policies, subcommittee initiatives, and
23 upcoming webinars.

24

NEW BUSINESS

25 **Veterans Affairs Policy:** Dr. Trapp led the discussion on the CGA proposed policy, Expanding
26 Access to Dental Services for Veterans. He noted that CDBP should encourage the Council on
27 Government Affairs to discuss the issue further before moving policy forward to the ADA House of
28 Delegates. Specifically, Dr. Trapp questioned the need to introduce an income-based eligibility
29 structure for benefits given that the current structure focused on disability based priority groups. He
30 also noted the need for all ADA agencies to understand the enrollment implications and program costs
31 so that Congress could be urged to appropriately fund any expansion of Veterans benefits. The
32 Council agreed with the considerations raised by Dr. Trapp and requested that Dr. Dens communicate
33 the need to further discuss the proposed policy with the Chair of CGA.

34 **Adjournment:** 11:30 a.m. Central Time