



Special Committee on Dental Medicaid  
March 13, 2017

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Hanlon, Patricia, Chair (S)  
Cooperman, Kenneth (NY)  
Backer, Steven (2)  
Sandu, Diana (4)  
Wilson, Michael (6)  
Frustino, Jennifer (8)

Blonda-Gil, Nora (9)  
Milord, Fabiola (N)  
Mota Martinez, Mercedes (Q)  
Jacobobo, Amarilis (B)

The NYSDA Special Committee on Dental Medicaid met via conference call on Monday, March 13, 2017. All members of the committee participated in the meeting with the exception of Drs. Blonda-Gil and Mota Martinez. Dr. Mark Feldman, NYSDA executive director, and Dr. Judith Shub, assistant executive director, participated as well.

Dr. Hanlon called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. She announced that she had volunteered to take over as committee chair since Dr. Filanova left New York. She asked whether there were any changes to the minutes from the committee's meeting held on November 1, 2016. The minutes were adopted as written.

**Issues**

The meeting began with a review of issues brought forth by members. Dr. Hanlon is disputing a claim adjudicated by US Healthcare. Dr. Backer offered to refer her problem to Dr. Carlton Gong at United Healthcare. She also noted that companies are not reimbursing for smoking cessation. Dr. Cooperman pointed out that patients who had previous treatment are presenting in orthodontic appliances that need to be removed. Orthodontists are no longer being reimbursed for removing these appliances. Some come from abroad or other states and the managed care companies are not providing reimbursement. He also cited complaints about his experience with United Healthcare. Dr. Milord expressed surprise because she has not had problems with United Healthcare.

Dr. Backer stated that he is not being reimbursed by Medicaid for patients with dual eligibility, i.e., Medicare and Medicaid. Dr. Gostling at DOH is looking into his complaint.

Dr. Milord reported that she has been repeatedly contacted by Healthfirst about becoming a participating provider. Healthfirst has been trying to recruit her and other dentists on Long Island to join its network. The company currently does not have an adequate network in Nassau and

Suffolk Counties. Dr. Milord will be meeting with representatives from Healthfirst and will provide a report following her meeting.

Dr. Feldman cited the US News and World Report finding that over 60% of children in New York's Medicaid program do not receive dental services.

#### Changes to Federal Government Programs

Dr. Feldman discussed the anticipated changes in government funding under the new administration and anticipated cuts in Medicaid if it moves to a state block grant reimbursement formula.

#### New Business

The committee now must submit a report to the Council on Dental Benefit Programs with its recommendations for continuing or disbanding the current committee. Dr. Backer voiced his support for continuing the committee. Drs. Hanlon and Jacobo concurred. Dr. Feldman advised the committee to include its accomplishments and goals and how it benefits the membership overall in its report to the council. He thanked the members for their dedication and effort. The chair said that she would review the minutes from prior meetings for the report.

One suggested goal was to provide information to membership statewide on Medicaid and managed care. They considered a role for the committee as resources for other members in solving problems. Dr. Feldman suggested the possibility of developing a Medicaid Ambassador Program.

Dr. Backer would like to have Drs. Gostling and Richardson from DOH invited to meet with the committee and would like to meet with the DOH managed care staff and legislators.

#### Old Business

Dr. Hanlon had stated that, when one service is pended when a claim is processed, the entire claim is pended. This has been referred to DOH and the committee is awaiting a response. Dr. Backer pointed out that there is no allowable Medicaid reimbursement for repairing a sealant. He asked why there is no reimbursement for D1353, sealant repair.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, Dr. Hanlon adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Hanlon, DMD  
Chair