

Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention

Meeske, Jessica A., 2021, Nebraska, chair
 Gupta, Shailee J. 2022, Texas, vice chair
 Arsenault, Karen V., 2023, Massachusetts
 Cochran, Stephen D., 2025 Florida
 Delecki, Chris, 2023, Washington
 Fukuoka, Brooke M. Idaho*
 Gipe-Golden, Kristie, 2022, Arkansas
 Hilton, Irene V., 2021, California
 Kosten, Katherine R., 2025, Illinois
 Mancini, James, 2023, Pennsylvania
 Margolin, Robert E., 2023, New York
 Marshall, Rodney, 2025, Alabama
 Morrow, Carol M., 2021, Colorado
 Richardson, Michael, L., 2022, West Virginia
 Simpson, Elizabeth V., 2025, Indiana
 Vakil, Shamik S., 2022, North Carolina
 Wakeem, Jehan, 2021, Michigan

Grover, Jane S., director
 Geiermann, Steven P., senior manager, Access, Community Oral Health Infrastructure and Capacity
 Zokaie, Tooka, manager, Fluoridation and Preventive Health
 Cantor, Kelly, manager, Community Based Programs

The Council's 2020-2021 liaisons include: Dr. Brett Kessler (Board of Trustees, Fourteenth District); Ms. Joelle Chen (American Student Dental Association); Dr. David White (chair, Council on Government Affairs); Dr. Mark Vitale (vice chair, Council on Government Affairs); and Mr. Greg Mitro (Alliance of the American Dental Association).

Areas of Responsibility as Set Forth in the *Bylaws or Governance and Organizational Manual of the American Dental Association*

As listed in Chapter VIII., Section K.1. of the ADA *Governance and Organizational Manual*, the areas of subject matter responsibility of the Council shall be:

- a. Oral Health Literacy
- b. Oral Disease Prevention and Intervention
- c. Access to Oral Healthcare
- d. Community Oral Health Advocacy

Advancing ADA Strategic Goals and Objectives: Agency Programs, Projects, Results and Success Measures

The Council supported activities focused on the initiatives of the Action for Dental Health while also supporting the Association members with COVID related topics including COVID vaccine safety concerns. Programs such as Community Water Fluoridation, Emergency Department Referral, Medicaid program reforms, and the Community Dental Health Coordinator program continued to grow and members in either private or public health settings were well served. The Council supports the 2019 House mandate to Develop a Culture of Safety as a three-year initiative.

*New Dentist member

An additional benefit of Council activities is the interest expressed by student members and state dental associations in the initiatives, which have brought various professional generations together for improving the overall health of the public.

Common Ground Public Goal: The ADA will support the advancement of the health of the public and the success of the profession.

Objective 9: The ADA will be preeminent driver of trusted oral health information for the public and the profession

Initiative/Program: COVID Vaccine Informational Webinars

Success Measure: Number of webinars and attendees

Target: 2 webinars with 500 registrants

Range: 2-5 webinars with 200-600 registrants

Outcome: 3 webinars with approximately 3,000 registrants

CAAP produced a series of webinars for members and other dental professionals which featured content experts in the fields of Obstetrics/ Gynecology, Primary Care, Family Medicine and Cultural Competence. Attendee survey data reflected high levels of satisfaction with content presented. Issues of vaccine hesitancy, fertility and health literacy were covered by panels of subject matter experts from national organizations.

Objective 9: The ADA will be the preeminent driver of trusted oral health information for the public and the profession

Initiative/Program: Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) program

Success Measure: National Program Recognition with Two Educational Institutions and HRSA Grant Research Agenda for Two States

Outcome: Even in the COVID era, the CDHC program continues to register increased optimization of the curriculum and graduate employment. This progress is realized through three current HRSA grants, new site offerings and published articles. There are currently over 700 graduates.

Three hospital dental departments are currently utilizing individuals specifically with the CDHC designation while two dental schools have benefited from HRSA grants to utilize CDHCs for outreach and care coordination. Three research articles have been published in peer reviewed journals this year, including one in the Journal of Dental Education. Three new schools will be offering the program including the University of West Virginia University School of Dentistry.

Objective 9 The ADA will be the preeminent driver of trusted oral health information for the public and profession.

Initiative/Program: Medicaid – Promoting provider participation in state Medicaid programs, educating dental students about Medicaid programs / patients, and improving Medicaid program compliance continues to be an access to care priority as the number of Medicaid participants is estimated to increase to over 80 million individuals due to economic conditions brought about by the pandemic.

Success Measure: Hosting Medicaid “Boot Camps” for dentists and “Lunch & Learn” educational opportunities within dental schools and residency programs and state dental association meetings via ZOOM

Target: 4 boot camps for dentists and 10 for dental students

Range: 3-5 dentist boot camps and 8 -15 student/resident opportunities

Outcome: 17 Medicaid boot camps hosted for state dental associations, 12 dental schools and 25 dental residency presentations. Over 3,000 dentists, residents and dental students participated in this training with others accessing the Medicaid course online. Overall excellent satisfaction ratings for content presented exceeded 95% per participant response.

Prevention Subcommittee Highlights

- The ADA spoke at three city council meetings: 1) Green Bay, WI, 2) Madison, WI. and 3) East Brunswick, NJ.
- The ADA sent 7 letters to city council and state decision makers related to the continuation of community water fluoridation: 1) Loveland, CO, 2) Trenton, TN, 3) Green Bay, WI, 4) Madison, WI, 5) East Brunswick, NJ, 6) Titusville, FL, and 7) New Hampshire House Resources Committee.
- The ADA sent a letter to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), sharing their concerns with the Draft Monograph. [NASEM's report](#) identified “worrisome” inconsistencies and was not being able to find some key data used in the meta-analysis. NASEM also had concerns regarding the wording of some conclusions. This monograph is of importance, as Judge Chen of the Food & Water Watch, Inc. et al v. Environmental Protection Agency et al lawsuit will not continue trial until there is a more conclusive report from the National Toxicology Program. Currently, the next session of the trial is set for August 2021.
- Six ADA News stories related to fluoridation were published between October 2020 and May 2021.
- The ADA, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (a national non-profit organization) and more than 60 organizations asked the Food and Drug Administration to [prohibit menthol](#) as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes in March 2021. On April 29, FDA [announced it is committing to advancing two tobacco product standards](#) to significantly reduce disease and death from using combusted tobacco products – the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.

Access and Advocacy Subcommittee Highlights in support of the ADA’s public goal to support the health of the public and the success of the profession:

- The Medicaid Provider Advisory Committee (MPAC) collaborated with the Council on Dental Benefit Programs to integrate the 2020 House approved *Guidelines for Medicaid Dental Reviews* into the [Medicaid Contract Toolkit](#) for states to utilize when negotiating Medicaid managed care.
- The ADA’s Culture of Safety in Dentistry Workgroup offered an Introduction to a Culture of Safety to over 1,700 dentists via live presentations, while offering a similar [free two hour CDE course](#) on ADAOnline. Twelve state dental associations shared safety articles in their journals. The workgroup is collaborating with the Dental Patient Safety Foundation ([DPSF](#)) to educate dentists about the value of collective learning through reporting of near misses and adverse incidents.

Emerging Issues and Trends

- Teledentistry will continue to be an important trend as COVID-19 demonstrated the value of the Save and Store function to expand access to care while preserving PPE.
- School-based healthcare reduced by COVID-19 has become an emerging issue in elementary and secondary schools, which limited “outsiders” such as healthcare professionals, disrupted the critical link between underserved children with dental disease and sites of care.

- Health Equity will have a higher profile as the legislative climate in Washington, DC moves significant funding for public facing oral health programs forward through this lens. Health Equity activities could also add member value as a culture of equity attracts newer dentists.
- The role of the dentist within Primary Care will continue to escalate as a trend, with dentists continuing to participate in vaccine recommendations or administration and collaborating more closely with physician colleagues in screening / referral for chronic diseases such as diabetes.
- Veterans' dental care and Medicaid oral health programs will continue to be emerging issues as COVID-19 related unemployment factors have caused the number within these populations to dramatically increase.
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) will continue to rise in incidence, prompting the awareness of oral cancer detection / prevention with dental offices playing an integral role in HPV vaccine promotion

Responses to House of Delegates Resolutions

The Council will provide responses to resolutions from the 2020 House of Delegates in a separate report.

Self-Assessment

The Council is next scheduled to conduct a self-assessment in 2025.

Policy Review

In accordance with Resolution 170H-2012, Regular Comprehensive Policy Review, CAAP reviewed the following Association policies as assigned:

CAAP reviewed the following policies and determined they should be maintained:

- Need of Dental Public Health Education and Oral Health Services in Underserved Countries (*Trans.*1999:906)
- Designation of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities as a Medically Underserved Population (*Trans.*2014:508)
- Vision Statement on Access for the Underserved and Promotional Activities (*Trans.*2004:321; 2014:503)
- The Alaska Native Oral Health Access Task Force—Strategies to Assure Access to Quality Health Care for Native Alaskans (*Trans.*2004:291; 2010:521)
- Access to Dental Services for the Underserved (*Trans.*2000:500)
- State Dental Programs (*Trans.*1954:278; 2013:341)

The Council has submitted resolutions to amend or rescind other ADA policies based on their continued need, relevance and consistency with other Association policies. Those recommendations are contained on separate worksheets.

Council Minutes

For more information on recent activities, see the Council's [minutes](#) on ADA.org.