



COUNCIL ON DENTAL HEALTH PLANNING & HOSPITAL DENTISTRY
October 27, 2023

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Rozdolski, Raquel, Chair, (9)	Frustino, Jennifer (8)
Rubin, Marsha (NY)	Miller, David (N) (Downstate Dental Director Liaison)
Joseph, Alfred (2)	Kesner, Stuart (Q)
Doriot, Robert (3)	Maranga, Maria (S)
Johnstone, Laura (4)	Heller, Diane (B)
DiFlorio, Jean (5)	Goggans, Joelle (New Dentist Representative)
Vacant (6)	Rossitto, Rachael (Upstate Dental Director Liaison)
McLaren, Sean (7) (ADA CAAP Representative)	Casper-Klock, Theresa (BOT Liaison)

The Council on Dental Health Planning and Hospital Dentistry met on Friday, October 27, 2023, by Zoom. All members were in attendance with the exception of Drs. Doriot, Maranga, Heller, and Goggans. Dr. Casper-Klock, Board of Trustee Liaison, was unable to attend as well. There is no representative appointed for the Sixth District Dental Society. Ms. Betsy Bray, Director, Health Affairs, and Ms. Jacquie Donnelly, Manager, Health Affairs, were also in attendance.

Dr. Rozdolski called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. She began by welcoming everyone and then asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the Council's meeting held on March 24, 2023. The minutes were adopted as written by unanimous consent, following a motion by Dr. Miller, seconded by Dr. Joseph. Dr. Rozdolski thanked the members for attending and asked them to introduce themselves.

ADA Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP) Report

Dr. McLaren explained he has just been appointed to the position of ADA CAAP representative at the ADA HOD meeting; therefore, he did not have a report at this time. The Council's next meeting will be held in January 2024. The Council was provided with a written report from Dr. Robert Margolin, the outgoing ADA CAAP representative, from their meeting held in July. A copy is appended to these minutes.

NYS Department of Health (DOH) Update

Dr. Richardson was scheduled to attend the meeting but had to cancel at the last minute. Ms. Donnelly will inquire whether she has a written report to submit.

Hospital Dental Program Liaison Reports

Dr. Rossitto reported that the upstate dental program directors met in April at SUNY Buffalo. Mr. Hill attended the meeting and provided an overview of NYSDA advocacy efforts. The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2024, at SUNY Buffalo, with a residency fair being held in the afternoon.

Dr. Miller reported that the downstate dental program directors met in person for the first time since the pandemic on May 4 at NY Presbyterian/Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Approximately 40 program directors were in attendance. Dr. Miller said he was encouraged to see many new program directors attending the meeting.

Dr. Miller reviewed items discussed at the meeting. These included: dental compacts; a report on the initiatives of the ADA CAAP Council; the Postdoctoral Dental Match Program, which has seen a decrease in applications to GPR residency programs; the settlement of the Medicaid lawsuit brought against DOH by the Legal Aid Society on behalf of Medicaid recipients; and the role of DSOs in dental education.

Dr. Miller recounted a discussion that took place at the meeting as a result of reports of conflicting dental licensure data trending in New York. The downstate dental directors heard reports of a decrease directly related to PGY-1; however, data shared by Dr. Gounardes does not appear to support that opinion. Ms. Bray asked Dr. Miller if he could share the data presented with the Workforce Action Group for review.

Dental Workforce Development Action Plan

Ms. Bray reported on the formation of the Workforce Action Group Committee and its stated goals: to review and propose revisions to the policies of NYSDA regarding dental workforce, analyze workforce trends, educational programs and licensure paths in and outside of New York, and propose resolutions to the Board of Trustees and House of Delegates related to dental workforce recommendations.

She said the Committee will address access-to-care issues, along with workforce shortages. The Committee will consist of three subcommittees: Workforce, Education, and Licensure. Ms. Bray said the work will begin in November and will be ongoing. She pointed out that 3 members of the Council have been included on the Committee: Drs. Rozdolski, Miller and Maranga.

International Students and Credit Hours

Dr. Rozdolski directed the members to an informational handout regarding a communication from a residency director to NYSDA. The director had an international student who had completed her degree abroad and has an advanced DDS. The resident was short 30 credit hours and could not get a limited permit to practice in the residency program. The director had reached out to NYSDA for advice.

Hospital Program and Component Issues

The members discussed activities and concerns in their components and respective hospitals. Challenges with workforce shortages and access to care continue to be critical issues they are facing. The majority of members spoke of long wait lists for patients trying to schedule appointments and for OR time. Dr. Johnstone reported that the Capital District has lost the only two residency programs in the area, leading to an access issue for the Medicaid population. She said Hometown Health in Schenectady has a 2-year waiting list and Hudson Headwaters in Warrensburg is picking up some of the patient overflow.

Dr. McLaren reported that the dental centers have a wait list of over 10,000 people between the general dentistry and pediatric programs. The wait list for adult IDD appointments is over 2 years. He believes they are receiving overflow from the Capital District closures. Dr. Frustino reported that the Eighth District will try to address the workforce shortage issue by determining how to encourage, advertise and create excitement around the profession of dentistry, i.e., hygiene, assisting, and laboratory technology. She also reported that Erie County Medical Center's satellite IDD clinic is now open in Buffalo.

Dr. DiFlorio reported that SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse has received many transfers from the Albany area in its ED as well. She has been successful in obtaining 2 additional residents this year. Dr. DiFlorio pointed out there is a lack of Medicaid providers in the area; therefore, patients are seeking treatment in the ED. As a result, the ED has been closed to new patients for over a year. Dr. Rubin reported a 1-year wait list for adult IDD patient OR time, and difficulty recruiting specialists on a per-diem basis. Dr. Kesner said Jamaica Hospital is expanding its program to include sleep apnea and Invisalign.

In Dr. Doriot's absence, Ms. Bray reported on a service event that took place in the Third District, at Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC). The event was planned to alleviate pressure in the Capital District due to the closure of two hospital dental clinics, displacing 4,000 patients in a two-year timeframe. The service event allowed for 106 patients to receive a screening and referral services with a Community Dental Health Coordinator and provided emergent care to 26 patients. Ms. Bray said the collaborative event was well-received and planned by NYSDA, the Dental Foundation and HVCC. The Dental Demonstration Project (DDP) was able to provide funding to secure a dental van to provide supplies and equipment on site. Ms. Bray further explained that the DDP will sunset on March 31, 2024, as the Dental Foundation is planning to build on this work.

Note: The 9th District submitted a report after the Council meeting. It follows below:

Dr. Rozdolski reported that the Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) has accepted its second fellow for the "Fellowship to Address Oral Health Disparities," which is through the New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC) and funded by New York State. The graduated fellow from the program has joined TCDM as junior faculty one day a week. TCDM is the only academic dental center to host a fellow this year, though 5 remaining openings are available. Dr. Rozdolski said it has been challenging recruiting dentists into the fellowship, likely due to the significant student loan debt recent graduates are balancing. The fellowship committee is working on ways to encourage more applications. One avenue they are exploring is offering loan

repayment options, with a yearly service requirement to a maximum of 3 years. There is \$750,000 within the current fiscal year NYS Budget for this fellowship.

New Business

Instructional Video for Residents' Licensure Application

It had been suggested that a step-by-step instructional video be created to assist dental residents navigate the licensure application process. According to prior conversations with Dr. Dolores Cottrell, many delays are caused by "user" error or not completing the application in its entirety. Ms. Bray suggested at a previous meeting that an informal recording made by Dr. Steve Gounardes could be used, with modifications, to develop a template. Ms. Donnelly explained that NYSDA staff will speak to Dr. Gounardes about the use of the video. Ms. Donnelly will forward a copy of Dr. Gounardes's video to the members for their review.

Although she believes a video may be a good idea, Dr. DiFlorio said the problem seems to be that SED does not notify an applicant when information is missing or completed incorrectly. Applicants are discouraged from calling SED to check on the status of their application as they are told it would cause further delays. The disconnect lies with the communication between the resident and SED. She cited two situations where applications were delayed because the school did not forward the applicant's infection-control certificates.

Dr. Rubin questioned if anyone has looked at what the process is from the resident's end. She pointed out the application process is now electronic and guides you through what documents to upload. Dr. Rossitto said certain documents must be obtained from the resident's dental school, which sometimes do not make it to SED or are incorrect. Dr. Rubin wondered if a video would really help or would it be "overkill." Several members said they believe it should be SED's responsibility to notify applicants of incorrect or missing information. They do not believe it should be their responsibility to walk residents through the application process. Dr. McLaren pointed out that a video may be touted as a benefit of becoming a NYSDA member.

Student /Resident Mental Health and Well-Being

Dr. Rozdolski mentioned the ADA Health and Well-Being Summit and the ADA's change in direction from focusing exclusively on substance abuse to incorporating well-being. She reminded the members that NYSDA has a Committee on Substance Abuse and Well-Being that assists dentists with treatment needs. Dr. Rozdolski said at the current time, NYSDA does not have a well-being assistance program.

Ms. Donnelly reported NYSDA staff is currently researching several well-being programs as a possible member benefit. For the time being, any calls received pertaining to a mental health concern would be forwarded to the Committee's Peer Assistance Coordinator, who would be able to find a referral. She said the in-patient treatment centers the Committee typically refer to have the resources to not only treat a patient's addiction with substance abuse, but to treat mental health issues as well, as they are often co-occurring. Ms. Donnelly asked the members to be mindful of their residents' concerns and/or struggles and know what resources are available in their facility to assist them. She pointed out they can also be referred to NYSDA for assistance through the Committee on Substance Abuse and Well-Being.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Adjournment

Dr. Frustino asked about the possibility of conducting another joint meeting with the Council on Dental Education and Licensure. Ms. Donnelly explained the topic was discussed at CDEL's meeting as well. After speaking to Mr. Hill, he did not think it was necessary to conduct a joint meeting on an annual basis. It would be more appropriate to conduct a joint meeting when both councils were discussing the same concerns and agenda items. In addition, the meeting would need to be held offsite, so there would be significant cost involved. Dr. Rozdolski suggested if similar issues are to be discussed, a joint Zoom meeting could always be conducted, as needed.

The members agreed that the Council's spring meeting will be conducted in person at NYSDA. Ms. Donnelly will send a survey to the members with available dates.

There being no additional business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.