

2009-2010 Report of the Council on Government Affairs

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Charge 1.

Status of Charge 1: Completed

Annually develop and recommend to the Board of Trustees at the 2010 Winter Planning Meeting AAPD Legislative and Regulatory priorities for the ensuing calendar year.

Background and Intent: This is a standing charge to the council. The CGA met in January 2009 for work in this area, which may be referenced as the 2009 AAPD Legislative and Regulatory Priorities as approved by the Board of Trustees.

Progress Report for Charge 1

The list of priorities was compiled during the December 2009 teleconference of the CGA, and forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval at the BOT January 2010 winter meeting. All priorities were approved.

Charge 2.

Status of Charge 2: Completed

Continue **Workforce Expansion and Enhancement Efforts** by promoting funding for pediatric dentistry training through:

- a. Expanded Title VII funding and authority, including faculty development and loan repayment.
- b. Identification and implementation of alternative state programs
- c. AAPD membership support for workforce efforts, including national, state and local legislative initiatives and collaboration with local dental education programs, and provide technical assistance for program directors concerning funding of pediatric dental training including Title VII applications and awards, and GME.

Background and Intent: This charge recognizes that efforts to grow the pediatric dental workforce require multiple efforts and technical assistance as requested by current and potential training sites.

Progress Report for Charge 2

2a. Congressional Liaison Dr. Simmons and Hogan & Hartson representatives have interfaced with many congressional offices. FY 2010 appropriations were at an all -time high of \$7.575 million for pediatric dentistry, and appropriations legislative language obtained by AAPD also initiated a new faculty loan repayment program at HRSA. Broader Title VII authority, including faculty loan repayment, faculty development, and pre-doctoral curriculum development, was obtained in health care reform legislation. This was a major achievement for AAPD advocacy efforts! See CEO's report for more details.

2b. This is probably a moot point given the new federal primary care dental workforce cluster noted above. However, AAPD will continue to track state programs that promote training in pediatric dentistry.

2c. AAPD strongly encouraged residency programs to apply for FY 2010 Title VII funding, and individual faculty to apply for faculty loan repayment under HRSA's new \$2.5 million initiative for pediatric dentistry. Technical assistance was also provided. Several important and helpful GME provisions are included in the health care reform legislation, and AAPD is hosting a Medicare GME and Children's Hospitals GME workshop as part of the 2010 Academic Day during the AAPD Annual Session. An updated GME legal and regulatory analysis will be provided to program directors as part of this workshop. See CEO's report for more details.

Charge 3.

Status of Charge 3: Ongoing

Promote and support fair and equitable access to oral health services for all segments of the population by:

- a. Promoting enhanced public funding of pediatric oral health services through:
 1. Federal legislators and regulators for Medicaid and SCHIP
 2. State legislators and regulators for Medicaid and SCHIP, highlighting "model" programs such as the Michigan Healthy Kids Dental Program.
- b. Encouraging federal and state health agencies to remove non-financial barriers to children's oral health care. "Non-financial barriers" mean administrative and regulatory burdens and communications problems that discourage provider and/or patient participation in these programs.
- c. Facilitating dissemination of information on the status of state dental Medicaid programs, using the Council's Pediatric Dental Medicaid and SCHIP Advisory Committee and Advocacy section of the Academy's Web site. Promote state adoption of EPSDT dental periodicity schedules based on AAPD guidelines.
- d. Continue to provide technical assistance on Medicaid pediatric dental reimbursement to states and on-site consulting service on this topic and/or general anesthesia legislation to state units.

Background and Intent: The intent is to continue to support efforts to "fix" Medicaid for kids' oral health and have successful implementation of a pediatric oral health component of SCHIP.

Progress Report for Charge 3

AAPD continues to promote and disseminate the state Medicaid dental success stories to both federal and state policymakers. The AAPD and ADA submitted joint testimony in October 2009 to the House Oversight Subcommittee on Domestic Policy as part of another hearing on Medicaid dental issues. Dr. Joel Berg testified in person at that hearing on the success of the ABCD program in Washington State. AAPD and ADA are also developing updated analysis of how Medicaid fees compare to private commercial rates. Unfortunately, health care reform legislation did not include a Medicaid dental reimbursement provision, which means that there will be an increased number of Medicaid-eligible children without addressing the fundamental problems with dental programs in many states. As we know, all Medicaid and SCHIP programs are under stress due to the economy and state and federal budgets. Further, many states are considering “cram down” bills to address insurance practices which attempt to force dentists to accept certain fees for services not even covered by the dental plan. Mid-level providers are also being touted as the “solution” to access. Given these challenges, AAPD will continue to provide updated strategies and information to states units. We are developing a state-by-state data base on legislative issues that will be available via the AAPD Web site.

Charge 4.

Status of Charge 4: Various

Develop and maintain an effective AAPD advocate structure.

Charge 4a. Status of Charge 4a: Completed for 2010

Conduct advocacy updates sessions as part of the annual meeting. Develop and implement, with approval from the Board, a program for the 2010 annual session.

Background and Intent: The intent is to continue education and dialogue with our growing “advocacy network”.

Progress Report for Charge 4a

The Council continues to monitor all CE courses evaluation forms and is also awaiting the proposed Membership Survey. Courses for allied dental professionals are offered at Annual Meeting and specific programs are being added to existing AAPD CE courses such as a staff program at the Practice Management course. Council continues to work with the Sedation committee to incorporate an assistant’s portion to the existing Sedation course.

Charge 4b. Status of Charge 4b: Ongoing

Encourage membership participation in our advocacy and legislative training programs. Prepare and run a basic level legislative workshop for state advocates, alternating every other year with an advanced level workshop. Utilize the New Pediatric Dentist Committee in recruitment efforts, and encourage these committee members to attend.

Background and Intent: This charge relates to the continuing effectiveness and improvement of our annual Fall Advocacy Training Workshops.

Progress Report for Charge 4b

The Advanced Legislative Workshop, scheduled for September 24-25, 2010, will focus exclusively on mid-level dental provider challenges and strategies as this issue is considered in state legislatures. AAPD will fund up to two attendees from each state

unit, and also has a previous commitment to allow the entire leadership of the Western Society of Pediatric Dentistry to attend. See the CEO's report for more details.

Charge 4c. Status of Charge 4b: In Progress

Working with district trustees, promote advanced advocacy programs and legislative workshop training at the state and District level to strengthen the effectiveness of state advocacy efforts. Prepare annually for the Board a report on this effort.

Background and Intent: In 2002 the AAPD approved a program to offer state units and district organizations "mini" legislative workshops which could be presented at local meetings, utilizing curricula and participants from the AAPD workshops. This program was implemented in Michigan in 2006.

Progress Report for Charge 4c

The advanced workshop noted above is intended to assist state advocacy efforts on this important issue.

Charge 5. Status of Charge 5: Completed for 2010

Identify the need for and at the direction of the Board the development and/or dissemination of "policy briefs" on issues of critical importance to AAPD advocacy efforts and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Background and Intent: Such materials may not only assist in advocacy efforts, but further establish the AAPD as the leading policy expert on pediatric oral health.

Progress Report for Charge 5

The AADP position paper on mid-level providers is available on the Web site and was published in the Jan/Feb 2010 issue of *Pediatric Dentistry*. Special acknowledgment should be given to Child Advocate Jim Crall for his work on this paper, and to the members of the Task Force on Workforce led by Pitts Hinson.

Charge 6. Status of Charge 6: Ongoing

Monitor the NIDCR program grants for practice based clinical research and encourage investigations related to pediatric oral health and report annually to the Board on this activity.

Background and Intent: The Board desires information on the RFPs and any potential opportunities this project might suggest to our organization or our membership.

Progress Report for Charge 6

This charge is being carried out via the Council on Scientific Affairs, and will likely be transferred over to them for 2010-11.

Charge 7. Status of Charge 7: In Progress

Maintain a close collaboration between the AAPD Political Action Committee and the CGA related to evaluating candidates for AAPD PAC support, taking into account the counsel of AAPD's Washington lobby. CGA will present a report to the PAC Steering Committee in election years to facilitate recommendations for candidate financial support.

Background and Intent: The PAC has two functions: to raise money and to disburse it. This charge creates a formal mechanism for the Academy to identify those seeking office it wishes to

support utilizing the Council most familiar with issues that are deemed important for children's oral health. This will include a written CGA report for each Congressional election cycle.

Progress Report for Charge 7

CGA prepared a written report to the AAPD PAC discussing key congressional candidates to consider for support. CGA also met jointly with the PAC during Lobby Day, on March 26, 2010, to continue this discussion.

Charge 8.

Status of Charge 8: Ongoing

Maintain liaison with the AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative to provide for every child in Head Start and Early Head Start a dental home as defined by the AAPD and ADA. Report to the Board with any recommendations to assist in this effort.

Background and Intent: In early 2008 the AAPD was awarded a five-year, ten-million dollar contract by the Office of Head Start to establish dental homes for the approximately 1 million children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start. Separate from what the initiative seeks to accomplish under the terms of the contract, the AAPD stands ready to assist in this collaborative effort.

Progress Report for Charge 8

Project Director Jim Crall and Project Manager Jan Silverman have made a number of presentations to AAPD members and national organizations to highlight progress on this project. They attend each state kick-off and publicize accomplishments via special E-News blasts to AAPD membership and other interested parties.

Charge 9.

Status of Charge 9: In Progress

Monitor state legislative activities that may have an impact upon other state issues. Inform members of a state level database for Medicaid and SCHIP dental fees via ADA compendium.

Background and Intent: While the CGA deals primarily with national concerns, there are many are many issues that arise in the states that may influence national legislation. In addition, the same issue may arise in several states and communication between them could be of paramount importance.

By the district members of the Council monitoring activities within their states and reporting back to the Staff Liaison and Board of Trustees, our members will have the opportunity to learn what is happening throughout the country and thus be more efficient and effective within their own locales.

Progress Report for Charge 9

As noted under Charge 3, AAPD is developing a state-by-state data base on key legislative issues that will be available via the AAPD Web site. Additional analysis of state issues is also being included in *PDT*.