

**COMMISSION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER RECOGNITION  
AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Dr. Monica H. Cipes, chair, called a regular meeting of the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR) to order on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 9:01 a.m. Central.

**Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:** Dr. John D. Ball; Dr. Maria Cuevas-Nunez; Dr. Edwin A. Del Valle Sepulveda; Dr. Carlotta A. Evans; Dr. Mina Habibian; Dr. David M. Kim; Daniel J. Meara; Dr. Steven E. Parker; Dr. Kumar J. Patel; Dr. Seena Patel; Dr. Mana Saraghi; Dr. Renato M. Silva; and Ms. Carol Trecek

Ms. Karen Burgess; Dr. Gary M. DeWood; Dr. Mitra Sadrameli, and Dr. Arpana S. Verma were unable to attend.

In addition, Dr. Rudolph Liddell, III, Seventeenth District Trustee, Board of Trustees liaison, attended the meeting.

**Commission staff present:** Ms. Mary Borysewicz, director; Ms. Kelli Cousins, coordinator.

**ADA staff present for all or portions of the meeting:** Dr. Anthony J. Ziebert, senior vice president, Education/Professional Affairs; Ms. Paula Tironi, senior associate general counsel; Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director

**Guest of the Commission:** Dr. Racquel Rozdolski, incoming member of CCEPR, and Ms. Kate Regnier, executive vice president, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education

**Preliminary Business**

**Adoption of Agenda and Disclosure of Relationships:** The Commission approved the agenda and authorized the chair to alter the order of agenda items as necessary to expedite business.

Dr. Cipes directed the Commission's attention to the CCEPR Conflict of Interest Policy and reminded commissioners of their obligation to make disclosures as appropriate. Commissioners disclosed the following affiliations during the course of the meeting:

<b>Commission Member</b>	<b>Affiliation Disclosed</b>
Dr. Monica Cipes	President, College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry;
Dr. Edwin Del Valle Sepulveda	Board member, Hispanic Dental Association
Dr. Daniel Meara	Employed by Christiana Care Health System; member, American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
Dr. Kumar Patel	Vice president, Georgia Dental Association
Dr. Renato Silva	Member, appointed to the Commission by, American Association of Endodontists

**Fiduciary Duty and Other Legal Topics:** Ms. Tironi gave a short presentation regarding general topics such as volunteers' fiduciary duty and conflicts of interest.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** A consent calendar was prepared to expedite the business of the Commission. Dr. Cipes reminded Commission members that any report, recommendation or resolution

may be removed from the consent calendar for discussion. The following reports were accepted by the Commission on consent.

Approval of CCEPR October 2020 Meeting Minutes and December 2020 Electronic Ballots  
CERP Provider Education and Outreach Update  
Appointments to the Commission  
Committee Appointments  
CERP Extended Approval Process  
Future CCEPR Meeting Dates  
Results of Spring 2021 CERP Applicant Survey  
CERP Participation and Approval Data

**Approval of CCEPR October 2020 Meeting Minutes and December 2020 Electronic Ballots:** The Commission approved the minutes of the October 1, 2020 meeting and December 2020 electronic ballots (on the consent calendar). The December 2020 recognition actions are included as Appendix 1, a confidential section of these minutes.

### **Reports from Other Agencies**

**ADA Board of Trustees Liaison:** Dr. Liddell extended greetings from the ADA Board of Trustees. Dr. Liddell noted that the Commission's work is vitally important to ADA members and expressed his interest in working with the Commission in the coming year.

**Senior Vice President Education and Professional Affairs:** Dr. Ziebert reported that the ADA has begun its 2022 budget planning process. First quarter 2021 financial reports for the Division of Education/Professional Affairs are encouraging, as revenues from testing fees recover from the slowdown during 2020 when many testing centers were closed. Dr. Ziebert also reported that the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) has been accepted as a pathway to dental licensure by five states, with one additional state accepting it on a temporary basis during the pandemic. The Joint Commission on National Board Dental Examinations is conducting initiatives to communicate information about the DLOSCE to other state boards to encourage greater acceptance. Dr. Ziebert also reported that the ADA has received a grant from the Department of Defense, administered through the Council of State Legislatures, to develop a draft licensure compact. Once developed, individual states could opt into the compact, supporting portability of dental licensure. Similar compacts have been developed in several other healthcare professions. Lastly, Dr. Ziebert reported on the re-organization process in the ADA Division of Technology. Although this process temporarily halted work on the Commission's new database and online application portal, Dr. Ziebert noted that funding for the project is included in the ADA's 2021 budget, and expressed optimism that the project would be completed within the year.

**ADA Executive Director:** Dr. O'Loughlin updated the Commission on ADA activities in the previous six months. Dr. O'Loughlin noted that the Association continues to experience challenges related to membership recruitment and retention. In evaluating its business model, the ADA is focused on diversifying sources of revenue through products and services that deliver member value. The current strategic plan, Common Ground 2025, also includes a goal of advancing the health of the public. Dr. O'Loughlin noted that CCEPR's work helps to support this effort.

**Meeting of U.S. Health Professions CE Accreditors:** The Commission received an informational report from Ms. Borysewicz on an informal meeting of staff members from over 20 accreditors for continuing education in the health professions held virtually on March 29, 2021. Topics discussed in the meeting included changes to CE regulations in various health professions as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic, including increased acceptance of online CE to fulfil requirements, and the impact of the pandemic on CE providers. Members of the group also reported on strategies their organizations are implementing to help encourage diversity, inclusion and equity in healthcare.

## Commission Business, Administration and Governance

**Policies and Procedures Committee Report:** Dr. Ball reported that the Committee reviewed published information about the American Association of Dental Boards' (AADB) new program for accrediting continuing dental education activities. The Committee considered that the AADB's Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) program creates a business interest that competes with the Commission. The AADB also appoints a member to serve on the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition. The Committee recommended that the Commission take steps to minimize any real or perceived conflicts of interest that could arise from the appointment of a CCEPR member by an organization with a competing business interest. The Committee therefore proposed that the Commission recommend to the ADA House of Delegates that the *Governance and Organizational Manual of the American Dental Association* (the *Governance Manual*) be amended to eliminate the requirement that AADB appoint a member to CCEPR. To help ensure that the Commission continues to receive input from individuals with insights and experience in the regulatory community, the Committee also proposed for the Commission's consideration potential future amendments to the CCEPR *Rules and Policies and Procedures*, outlining processes and criteria for the Commission to appoint such a member. As a result of its discussion, the Commission took the following action.

**Action:** The Commission approves submitting a resolution proposing that the ADA *Governance Manual* be amended as indicated in Appendix 2, for consideration at the 2021 House of Delegates, with conforming changes to the CCEPR *Rules and Policies and Procedures*, and that upon such modification of the ADA *Governance Manual* and the CCEPR *Rules and Policies and Procedures*, the Commission shall consider further modifications to the CCEPR *Rules and Policies and Procedures* permitting CCEPR to appoint a member who is also a member of a state dental board or jurisdictional dental licensing agency.

**Finance Committee Report:** The Commission received a written report from the Finance Committee; the report was summarized by Ms. Borysewicz in the absence of Committee members. The report included the Committee's recommendations for the CCEPR 2022 budget. In order to help achieve a balanced budget, the Committee proposed increases to CERP provider fees in 2022. In addition, the Committee recommended that the Commission meet once in person and conduct its second meeting virtually to help reduce travel expenses. The Commission discussed the potential impact of commercial interests withdrawing from the program, and considered the impact on providers in light of the proposed increase to annual fees. The Commission also noted that the proposed budget includes costs for a third full time employee to provide additional support to the program, as well as indirect expenses for shared services provided by the ADA. As a result of its review of the Committee's report, and in the interest of establishing a balanced budget, the Commission took the following actions.

**Action:** The Commission approves the 2022 CERP provider fees shown in Appendix 3,

And further,

The Commission approves sending the preliminary 2022 budget shown in Appendix 3 to the ADA's Budget and Finance Committee for incorporation into the ADA's 2022 budget, subject to any revisions the Chair of the Commission may make as requested by the ADA Budget & Finance Committee during the ADA budget process.

**Joint Accreditation Update:** The Commission received an informational report on ADA CERP participation in Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education. As of March 31, 2021, twenty-one of the 119 providers accredited through Joint Accreditation had also elected to receive ADA CERP recognition. The Commission noted that this was an increase over 2020, CCEPR's first year as an associate member of Joint Accreditation, and that revenues from fees from providers participating in the

program have offset the annual administrative fee CCEPR paid to Joint Accreditation as an associate member.

**CERP Provider Education and Outreach:** The Commission received an informational report on communications with the communities of interest in the previous six months. These include the newsletter to CERP recognized providers published twice a year, broadcast email announcements regarding changes to the CERP Eligibility Criteria, and a mandatory Commercial Interest Questionnaire to help the Commission identify those providers that are commercial interests. In addition, CCEPR staff participated in a panel discussion held during a Joint Accreditation-sponsored virtual conference, and a presentation about ADA CERP Standards as part of a town hall hosted by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry for its affiliated organizations.

**Appointments to the Commission:** The Commission was informed (on the consent calendar) that the American Association of Endodontists selected Dr. Renato M. Silva to serve a full 4-year term ending 2025. Dr. Silva is currently serving the remainder of Dr. Keiser's term. In addition, the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists has informed the Commission that it has selected Dr. Raquel Rozdolski to fill the remainder of Dr. Mana Saraghi's term ending 2023 on the Commission. Dr. Saraghi has tendered her resignation from the Commission effective April 23, 2021.

**Committee Appointments:** The Commission received an informational report of committee assignments for 2021.

**Future Meeting Dates:** The Commission received an informational report on the consent calendar listing the Commission's next meeting dates: an in person meeting, conditions permitting, is scheduled for September 23-24, 2021 in Chicago. In 2022 the Commission will meet virtually April 28-29, and September 29-30 in Chicago, conditions permitting.

### **ADA CERP Standards, Policies and Procedures**

**Standards Revision:** Dr. Cipes reported that a CERP Standards Revision Steering Committee has been appointed to resume the Standard revision process which has been deferred while the Commission focused on revising and implementing the CERP Eligibility Criteria. The steering committee will review the work done to date and identify the steps to complete the project. Commissioners will be asked to serve on subcommittees focused on specific Standards. The steering committee will review and coordinate the subcommittee revisions.

**CERP Eligibility Committee Report:** Dr. Meara gave an informational report on the Committee's recent activities which have focused on the implementation of the revised CERP Eligibility Criteria approved by the Commission in April 2019. When the revised Eligibility Criteria take effect on July 1, 2023, commercial interests will no longer be eligible for CERP recognition. Dr. Meara reported that the Committee was engaged in the process of reviewing providers' responses to the Commercial Interest Questionnaire sent to all CERP recognized providers in December 2020. Based on its findings, the Committee will make recommendations to the Commission regarding those providers that meet the CERP definition of commercial interest and that will no longer be eligible to participate in ADA CERP when the revised CERP Eligibility Criteria take effect. The Commission was reminded that providers are required to notify the Commission of any substantive changes to their organization, administration or CE program.

The Commission noted that in accordance with the CERP Eligibility Criteria and the definition of commercial interest, established by prior action of the Commission, CE providers are not required to have not-for-profit status. For-profit entities may be eligible for CERP recognition if they do not produce, market, re-sell or distribute health care goods or services used on patients

## ADA CERP Provider Recognition

**Extended Approval Process (EAP) 2021:** The Commission received an update (on the consent calendar) regarding participation in the ADA CERP Extended Approval Process. For the May 2021–June 2022 approval period, 15 ADA CERP approved providers (including four specialty societies and 11 ADA constituent societies) report that they will be extending approval to a total of 101 component societies. The list of EAP approved providers is published on the Commission’s website.

**Complaints Committee Report:** Dr. Parker presented the Committee’s report and recommendations regarding complaints against CERP recognized providers. The report and action are summarized in the confidential portion of these minutes.

**Spring 2021 Recommended Recognition Actions:** The Commission considered 6 new applications for ADA CERP recognition, one request for reconsideration of a denied new application, 60 applications for continued recognition, and 10 progress reports.

**Action:** The Commission grants initial recognition to 6 providers of continuing dental education, and continued recognition to 59 providers. The Commission notifies one provider of intent to withdraw recognition if the program is not brought into compliance with CERP Standards, and withdraws recognition from two providers for failure to meet program requirements. The Commission discontinues recognition of 6 providers at the request of those providers. Individual actions on all submissions are listed in Appendix 4, a confidential section of these minutes.

As a result of these actions, 491 CE providers will be ADA CERP recognized as of May 1, 2021. This total includes 21 providers approved through Joint Accreditation.

During its discussion, the Commission noted that the CERP requirement that CE content be based on sound science may not directly apply to providers that do not offer courses with clinical content, although these providers should refer to reputable sources when making business recommendations. The Commission may discuss this issue further at a future date.

**Results of Spring 2021 CERP Applicant Survey:** The Commission received an informational report summarizing survey results from providers submitting applications in Spring 2021, along with comparisons from previous application cycles (on the consent calendar).

**CERP Participation and Approval Data:** The Commission received an informational report tracking annual data on program participation, submission types and acceptance rates (on the consent calendar).

## Miscellaneous

**Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited CE:** The Commission heard an informational presentation from Ms. Kate Regnier, executive vice president, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) regarding that organization’s recently adopted Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited CE. The new standards replace the ACCME’s former Standards for Commercial Support. Ms. Regnier noted that the standards have been adopted by several other accrediting agencies, including Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.

**New Business:** No new items of business were proposed.

**Adjournment:** 3:36 p.m., Thursday, April 22, 2021