

MINUTES

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON RECOGNITION OF DENTAL SPECIALTIES AND CERTIFYING BOARDS VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

March 28-29, 2022

Call to Order: Dr. Frank Tuminelli, chair, called a regular meeting of the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (National Commission) to order on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 1:01 pm central standard time via video conference call.

Roll Call: Dr. Leonard Aste, Dr. Michele Beeler, Dr. Renee Broughten, Dr. Anthony Carroccia, Dr. Mara Catey-Williams, Dr. Jeffrey Chaffin, Dr. Donald Clem, Dr. Ralph Cooley, Dr. Alan Felsenfeld, Dr. Alan Friedel, Dr. Steven Ganzberg, Dr. Gayle Glenn, Dr. David Halpern, Dr. Michael Huber, Dr. William Johnson, Dr. Jonathan Knapp, Dr. Maureen Lang, Dr. Brian McAllister (vice-chair), Dr. Edward Moody, Dr. Susan Muller, Dr. Ned Murphy, Dr. Prabu Raman, Dr. Aruna Ramesh and Dr. Brenda Young were present.

Trustee Liaison: Dr. Frank Graham, Fourth District Trustee, American Dental Association (ADA).

Commission Staff: Ms. Catherine Baumann, director; Mr. Nicholas Salerno, manager.

ADA Staff (for all or portions of the meeting): Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, ADA Senior Associate General Counsel, Dr. Raymond Cohlma, ADA Executive Director and Dr. Anthony Ziebert, senior vice-president, Education and Professional Affairs.

Preliminary Business

Adoption of Agenda: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopted the agenda and authorized the chair to alter the order of agenda items as necessary to expedite business.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest: Dr. Tuminelli directed the Commission's attention to the National Commission Conflict of Interest Policy and reminded commissioners of their obligation to make disclosures as appropriate. No disclosures were reported.

Fiduciary Responsibility and Reminder of Professional Conduct Policy and Prohibition Against Harassment: Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, ADA Senior Associate General Counsel, reminded the Commissioners of their fiduciary responsibilities to the National Commission. The Commissioners were also reminded of the Professional Conduct Policy and Prohibition Against Harassment.

Commission Business

Consent Calendar: The following reports were placed on the consent calendar and adopted:

Mail Ballots Since Last Commission Meeting:

- April 26-27, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes

Report of the Standing Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy Review:

- Informational Report Related to Progress on National Commission 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Report of the Review Committee on Specialty Certifying Board Recognition

- Informational Report of Supplemental Documentation Submitted by the Recognized Certifying Boards Related to Recertification/Certification Requirements

Report of the Standing Committee on Communication and Technology

- Informational Report Related to Progress on National Commission Communication Plan
- Informational Report Related to Communication and Technology Committee Progress on National Commission 2020-2025 Strategic Plan
- Informational report on National Commission Website Analytics

Emerging Trends and Miscellaneous Affairs

- 2023-2025 National Commission Meeting Dates

Report of the Standing Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy Review: Below are the actions taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Standing Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy Review:

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Policy and Procedure Manual of the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered proposed revisions to the *National Commission Policy and Procedure Manual*.

Policy on Removal of National Commission, Review Committee and Appeal Board Members

Revisions were editorial in nature to remove reference to Review Committee members who are external consultant appointees, as the National Commission no longer utilizes external consultants/committee members.

Confidentiality Policy

Revisions were editorial in nature and to provide greater clarity to the policy, specifically, that the National Commission will not accept any documentation that contains Patient Health Information (PHI) and/or Personally Identifiable Information (PII) was appropriate.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy and remove references related to Review Committee members.

Policy on Simultaneous Service

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy and remove references related to Review Committee members.

Payment of Annual Fees by Recognized Specialty Sponsoring Organizations

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy.

Policy on Integrity

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy and add language related to professional behavior.

National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards Recognition Status Definitions

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy.

Policy on Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice

Revisions were editorial in nature and proposed a staggered timetable for completion of the Periodic Review.

The Board of Commissioners noted that the Periodic Review is conducted every ten (10) years, with the next scheduled review will to be conducted in 2030. The Board of Commissioners discussed that the volume of documentation submitted by each specialty sponsoring organization in the Periodic Review makes it challenging for the Review Committee and the Board of Commissioners to conduct an in-depth review; therefore, a staggered review cycle will provide the Review Committee and the Board of Commissioners the ability to complete more in-depth reviews.

The Board of Commissioners noted that when the next Periodic Review is conducted none of the Commissioners will have participated in the review process; however, Article II. Board of Commissioners. Section 4. Item E. of the National Commission *Rules* does allow for the appointment of consultants to assist in reviewing the Periodic Review. The Board of Commissioners discussed that it would be beneficial to develop a review grid to provide guidance on how to review the Periodic Review and the submitted documentation.

The Board of Commissioners determined the staggered Periodic Review cycle would start in 2029 with three (3) sponsoring organizations completing the review, three (3) in 2030, three (3) in 2031 and three (3) in 2032. The Board of Commissioners determined that because the American Academy of Oral Medicine and the American Academy of Orofacial Pain have not participated in the Periodic Review, both organizations will complete the Periodic Review in 2029. Further, the Board of Commissioners determined that because the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA) completed a modified Periodic Review in 2020 due to no historical certifying board data to report on, ASDA will also complete the Periodic Review in 2029. To implement a fair and unbiased staggered review cycle for the remaining specialty sponsoring organizations, the Board of Commissioners conducted a lottery.

Policy on the Annual Report of the Recognized Certifying Boards

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy.

Policy on Failure to Comply with Request for Information and Missed Deadlines

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy.

Application Process for Recognition of a Dental Specialty

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy, add prescribed deadlines and address concerns expressed by the Board of Commissioners during the consideration of previous applications for recognition.

Application Process for Recognition of a Dental Specialty Certifying Board

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy, add prescribed deadlines and address concerns expressed by the Board of Commissioners during the consideration of previous applications for recognition.

Policy on Recognition of a Dental Specialty Sponsoring Organization and Dental Specialty Certifying Board

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy, include mechanisms on how the recognition process is conducted and expands on proposed revisions in the applications for recognition.

Policy on Third Party Comment

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy.

Policy and Procedure Related to a Recognized Specialty's Request for Change in Name, Definition and/or Scope of Practice

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy.

Withdrawal of Specialty Recognition from a Recognized Sponsoring Organization or Certifying Board

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the policy.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the revised policies presented in Section II. Board of Commissioners and Review Committees, Section III. General National Commission Policies and Procedures and Section IV. Policies and Procedures related to the Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards of the National Commission Policy and Procedure Manual.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further directs staff to develop an internal review grid for the Periodic Review to aid in conducting the review.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further adopted a staggered cycle for the Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice starting in 2029 with the recognized specialty sponsoring organizations completing the Periodic Review in the following years:

American Academy of Oral Medicine	2029
American Academy of Orofacial Pain	2029
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists	2029
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry	2030
American Association of Orthodontists	2030
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	2030
American Academy of Periodontology	2031
American Association of Endodontists	2031
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons	2031
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	2032
American Association of Public Health Dentistry	2032
American College of Prosthodontists	2032

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Rules of the National Commission: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered proposed revisions to the *Rules* of the National Commission.

Article II: Board of Commissioners. Section 4. Powers, item F:

Revision was editorial in nature to remove language related to external consultants/committee members, given that the composition of the Review Committee's is now made up of all Commissioners.

Article III. Appeal Board. Section 2. Composition:

Revision was editorial in nature to remove a footnote related to the inaugural composition of the Appeal Board that expired at the adjournment sine die of the 2021 House of Delegates meeting.

Article VI: Removal for Cause:

Revision was editorial in nature to remove language related to external consultants/committee members, given that the composition of the Review Committee's is now made up of all Commissioners.

Article VII: Miscellaneous:

Revision was editorial in nature to add the word "meeting".

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the revised *Rules* of the National Commission.

Discussion Related to Determining the Need for Subspecialty Recognition in Dentistry: The National Commission Board of Commissioners discussed next steps in determining the need for subspecialty recognition in dentistry.

The Board of Commissioners noted that in April 2021, the ad hoc Committee on Subspecialty Recognition developed draft *Requirements for Recognition for Subspecialties* and recommended the National Commission adopt the requirements. At that time, several Commissioners expressed concern that the adoption of the subspecialty requirements was premature and further investigation and discussion was required on whether there is a need for subspecialty recognition in dentistry. In particular, broader input from all the communities of interest was required and the matter of subspecialty recognition was referred to the Strategic Planning and Policy Review Committee for further investigation.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that soliciting feedback on the need for subspecialty recognition from a greater community of interest was premature because the National Commission does not have a plan in place that would outline the process. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that trying to gather input on a scenario that has no reasonable standards in place would make it difficult for the communities of interest to provide relevant feedback.

While the future of subspecialty recognition is unknown, it would be advantageous for the National Commission to be proactive to ensure that if subspecialty recognition occurs, recognition would be done by the National Commission instead of an external agency. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that the development of a process related to subspecialty recognition would remain an internal document and not be released until the appropriate time.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners directs the creation of an ad hoc committee to develop internal processes related to the recognition of subspecialties with a report to the Board of Commissioners in April 2023.

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance: Below are the actions taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance:

Consideration of 2022-2026 Shared Services Agreement with the American Dental Association: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the proposed 2022-2026 Shared Services Agreement between the National Commission and the American Dental Association (ADA).

The Board of Commissioners noted that the proposed shared service agreement assessment is based on an allocation factor formula related to the number of full-time employees of the National Commission and the amount of services used by the National Commission. The Board of Commissioners further noted that the current proposed shared service agreement assessment is based on the audited 2020 financials of the National Commission. The 2022-2026 Shared Services Agreement estimates the National Commissions indirect expenses at \$42,527 per year, which is a \$6,055 per year decrease from the 2020-2022 agreement.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that the National Commission has a fiduciary responsibility to control costs and the National Commission and ADA must to be sensitive to the annual seat fee paid by the recognized specialty sponsoring organizations. The Board of Commissioners discussed concerns related to the opaqueness in how the ADA determines indirect costs and would prefer to be assessed on actual use of ADA services instead of being assessed on a formula. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that the use of a standardized formula may be more applicable to agencies that have a large number of staff and a large annual budget; however, for the National Commission with a small budget and one (1) staff, the use of a standardized formula may overstate the indirect costs of the National Commission.

The Board of Commissioners learned that National Commission Leadership and Finance Committee Chair does have the ability to set up a meeting with ADA Budget and Finance to have them explain how the ADA determines the formula that establishes indirect expenses.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners approves the 2022-2026 Shared Services Agreement.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further directs that a meeting be scheduled with National Commission leadership, the Finance Committee chair and ADA Division of Finance staff to discuss the shared service agreement process, formula and potential alternatives.

Consideration of 2022 Revised Forecast Budget and 2023 Proposed Draft Budget: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the 2022 revised forecast budget and the 2023 preliminary draft budget.

2022 Proposed Revised Forecast Budget

In April 2021, the Board of Commissioners adopted the National Commission 2022 preliminary draft budget. Based on the 2022 budget, the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organization contribution was to be \$10,818 for each organization.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that the proposed 2022 revised forecast budget reflects a \$43,272 decrease in expenses, as the National Commission is conducting a virtual meeting in 2022. The expense savings would be evenly split by the specialty sponsoring organizations and American Dental Association (ADA). The revenue and expense changes result in a decrease in the contribution of the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organizations to \$9,015 per specialty sponsoring organization for 2022.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the 2022 revised forecast budget.

2023 Proposed Budget

The Board of Commissioners discussed that the 2023 preliminary budget proposes an overall increase in direct and indirect expenses from \$259,632 (original 2022 budget) to \$259,970. The total fee allocated to the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organizations (\$129,985) is matched by the ADA. The 2023 preliminary budget proposes a \$14 increase from the original 2022 annual fees (\$10,818) to \$10,832.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the 2023 preliminary budget.

Discussion Related to Additional Sources of Revenue for the National Commission: The National Commission Board of Commissioners discussed additional sources of revenue for the National Commission.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that when the National Commission was established in 2017, the American Dental Association (ADA) was aware that the annual seat fees charged to both the recognized specialty sponsoring organizations and the ADA would be the primary sources of revenue to fund National Commission operations. The Board of Commissioners discussed that due to the National Commissions narrow focus on specialty recognition and the limited number of disciplines in dentistry that have the ability to meet the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*, there are limited opportunities for the National Commission to generate annual revenue to offset the annual seat fees. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that the National Commission has implemented additional fees and surcharges; however, these fees and surcharges are not predictable on an annual basis, so they are not factored into the National Commissions anticipated yearly operational revenue.

The Board of Commissioners discussed potential strategies to decrease expenses such as continuing to hold the annual meeting virtually, implementing a consulting fee to assist organizations with completing applications for recognition and/or annual reports and decreasing the number of general dentists on the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners determined the advantages of having face-to-face meetings outweighs the modest cost-savings of only having virtual meetings. The Board of Commissioners discussed that providing a consultative service could be problematic, especially in the situation where an adverse action was taken by the National Commission. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that decreasing the number of general dentists on the Board of Commissioners would decrease overall revenue and would require approval by the ADA House of Delegates. Given that the National Commission was established five (5) years ago, the likelihood of House of Delegates approving a change in composition is low at this time. A further concern was expressed related to the size of the Board of Commissioners and the increase in the overall number of Commissioners due to the addition of three (3) new specialties over the past two (2) years. If any new specialties are recognized, the size of the National Commission Board of Commissioners could become unwieldy.

Related to the issue of additional revenue generation, the Board of Commissioners learned that the Review Committee on Specialty Certifying Board Recognition has concerns related to two (2) recognized certifying boards that are chronically late in submitting the *Annual Survey of the Recognized Certifying Boards*. The Board of Commissioners further learned that at its February 2022 meeting, the Review Committee proposed the implementation of \$1,500 late fee, which was supported by the Strategic Planning and Policy Review Committee and the Finance Committee.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts a late fee in the amount of \$1,500.

Discussion Related to National Commission Fees: The National Commission Board of Commissioners discussed National Commission fees.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that when the application fees were established, the intent was to set the fees based on the total cost to review applications for recognition. The Board of Commissioners discussed that based on actual expenses to review applications for specialty recognition, the application

fee of \$15,000 is appropriate; however, based on actual expenses, the \$10,000 application fee to review certifying board applications does not cover all costs. The Board of Commissioners noted that because the National Commission has not considered any requests for change in name, definition and scope of practice outside of the *Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice*, there is no information available for determining whether the fees cover the expenses for the aforementioned tasks.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts an application fee of \$12,000 for the Application for Recognition of a National Certifying Board.

Report of the Standing Committee on Nominations: Below are the actions taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Standing Committee on Nominations:

Discussion Related to Short and Long Term Solutions to Assist the National Commission with Continuity When Commissioner Terms Expire: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered short and long term solutions to assist the National Commission with continuity when Commissioner terms expire.

In April 2021, the Board of Commissioners discussed concerns related to the composition of the National Commission after the 2024 class of Commissioners complete their term at the close of the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates meeting in October 2024. The growth of the Board of Commissioners, specifically in 2020, has created an imbalance in term expirations every four (4) years starting in 2024, when nine (9) of twenty-five (25) Commissioner terms expire at the close of the ADA House of Delegates meeting. The concern expressed was related to the large number of new, inexperienced Commissioners that will be appointed every four years and the loss of “historic knowledge.”

The Board of Commissioners considered three (3) strategies: (1) maintaining the current Commissioners terms and expanding training; (2) the utilization of “red shirt” Commissioners and; (3) conducting a lottery to re-establish the terms of those Commissioners who were added due to the recognition of three (3) new specialties. There was concern expressed with the “red shirt” option, which would require the early appointment of non-voting Commissioners to observe National Commission activities for one (1) year prior to becoming voting member. The “red shirt” Commissioners would have a five (5) year commitment to the National Commission and it may be difficult to find volunteers. In addition, this strategy would increase costs for the National Commission. The concern with the “lottery option” lottery to re-establish the terms of Commissioners added to the Board of Commissioners due to the recognition of new specialties was related to fairness and should have been conducted when those Commissioners were first appointed. The Commissioners concluded that the best option is expanding the New Commissioner Orientation Session from a one (1) hour session to a three (3) hour session and the development of individual training modules related to the history and activities of the National Commission.

The Board of Commissioners further discussed that in 2024, the National Commission will have been fully operational for seven (7) years; therefore, National Commission policies and procedures will have been well established and there will be enough resources in place to keep the Board of Commissioners functioning at a high level.

Commission Action:

The National Commission Board of Commissioners directs staff to develop in-depth orientation and training modules for new Commissioners.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further directs staff to implement a mentoring program that pairs experienced Commissioners with incoming Commissioners.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further directs the Strategic Planning and Policy Review Committee to develop policy and procedures related to addressing further increases in size of the Board of Commissioners.

Report of the Review Committee on Specialty Recognition: Below are the actions taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Review Committee on Specialty Recognition:

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Application for Recognition of a Dental Specialty:

The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered proposed revisions to the Application for Recognition of a Dental Specialty.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that overall the revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the application process, including the required documentation, and addresses concerns expressed by the Board of Commissioners during consideration of previous applications for recognition.

Application Instructions

Revision limits applicant responses to 750 words in the summary sections in an effort to make the summaries more succinct.

American Dental Association (ADA) Professional Conduct and Prohibition of Harassment Policy

The Board of Commissioners learned that the ADA's Professional Conduct Policy and Prohibition of Harassment is directed more toward ADA volunteers who interact with staff and other volunteers and does not necessarily address the National Commission's concerns over inappropriate behavior. The Board of Commissioners previously adopted revised language to the *Policy on Integrity* that is more appropriate; therefore, the *ADA Professional Conduct and Prohibition of Harassment Policy* should be removed from the application for recognition.

Requirements for Recognition and Recommended Documentation

Revisions were editorial in nature, provide greater clarity outlining the required supporting documentation and address concerns expressed by the Board of Commissioners during review of previous applications for recognition.

Requirement 3 Subpart b

Revision expands language specific to identifying overlap in knowledge, skills, training and scope of practice between a proposed specialty and the recognized specialties.

Requirement 4

Revisions provide greater clarification for applicants with regard to the National Commission's expectations related to research activities.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the revisions to the Application for Recognition of a Dental Specialty.

Report of the Review Committee on Specialty Certifying Board Recognition: Below are the actions taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Review Committee on Specialty Certifying Board Recognition:

Consideration of Request by the American Board of Orofacial Pain to be Recognized as the National Certifying Boards for Orofacial Pain: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the request and application submitted by the American Board of Orofacial Pain (ABOP) to be recognized as the national certifying board for Orofacial Pain. It was determined that Dr. Steven Ganzberg, Dr. Maureen Lang and Dr. Prabu Raman have a conflict of interest and were recused from the discussion and voting.

The Board of Commissioners were provided with an overview of the Review Committees review process of the application and the rationale behind the committee's recommendation that ABOP be recognized as the national certifying board for Orofacial Pain. The National Commission voted via electronic ballot on each of the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* and the application achieved the necessary 2/3rds majority to recognize the ABOP as the national certifying board for Orofacial Pain.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners recognizes the American Board of Orofacial Pain as the national certifying board for Orofacial Pain.

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Application for Recognition of a Dental Specialty National Certifying Board: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered proposed revisions to the Application for Recognition of a Dental Specialty National Certifying Board.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that the proposed revisions to the application for recognition were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to applicants on the application process.

Application Instructions

The revision limits applicant responses to 300 words in the summary sections in an effort to make the summaries more succinct.

American Dental Association (ADA) Professional Conduct and Prohibition of Harassment Policy

The Board of Commissioners learned that the ADA's Professional Conduct Policy and Prohibition of Harassment is directed more toward ADA volunteers who interact with staff and other volunteers and does not necessarily address the National Commission's concerns over inappropriate behavior. The Board of Commissioners previously adopted revised language to the *Policy on Integrity* that is more appropriate; therefore, the *ADA Professional Conduct and Prohibition of Harassment Policy* should be removed from the application for recognition.

Guidelines for Submitting Comments on Applications for Specialty Certifying Board Recognition

The Board of Commissioners discussed the revision to remove the middle column on the comment grid related to the National Commission interpretation of the *Requirements for Recognition*. The Board of Commissioners concurred that the language is repetitive to the language in the *Initial Compliance with this Requirements Necessitates* column, which outlines the documentation that is required to show compliance with the requirement.

Requirements for Recognition and Recommended Documentation

Revisions were housekeeping in nature, provides greater clarity in identifying the required documentation and address concerns expressed by Review Committee and the Board of Commissioners during review of previous applications for recognition.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the revisions to the Application for Recognition of a Dental Specialty National Certifying Board.

Consideration of 2022 National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the certifying board responses to the *2022 National Commission Annual Report of the Recognized Certifying Boards* and the final recognition statuses for each of the recognized certifying boards.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that overall the reports submitted by the recognized certifying boards were accurate and the statistical data remained relatively consistent. The Board of Commissioners considered the responses submitted by the recognized specialty certifying boards for the *2022 Annual Report of the Recognized Certifying Boards*. Based on review of the documentation the Board of Commissioners took the following actions:

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners grants the American Board of Endodontics the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Orthodontics the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Periodontology the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Prosthodontics the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology the continued status of Recognition.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Dental Public Health the status of Recognition *with reporting requirements*.

The National Commission Board of Commissioners further grants the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology the status of Recognition *with reporting requirements*.

2022 Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards Final Report

The Board of Commissioners discussed the *2022 Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards* and determined the report was accurate.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the *2022 Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards* final report.

Consideration of Revised Timetable and Format of the Annual Surveys of the Recognized Certifying Boards:

The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered a revised timetable and format of the recognized certifying boards' Annual Surveys.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that over the past two (2) years the certifying boards have done an outstanding job of providing evidence showing compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* as outlined in the Annual Survey. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that on average the documentation submitted with the full Annual Survey of the Recognized Certifying Boards generates approximately 1400 pages of documentation, which makes the review process onerous.

Given that, overall, the recognized certifying boards have shown continued compliance with the full Annual Survey, the Board of Commissioners discussed the concept of utilizing a modified annual survey in alternate years that would only collect in-depth information related to financial operations, validity and reliability evidence (Examination Technical Report) and numerical data related to Examination Statistical Data, Certification and Examination Summary Data, Certification Pathways and Applications. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that while it is important to review the certifying board's policies, procedures and *Bylaws* to ensure compliance, it is not necessary to review these items every year because they do not change on a yearly basis.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that the recognized certifying boards would be required to complete the full Annual Survey every three (3) years and in the intervening years, those certifying boards that are in good standing with the status of "Recognition" would be allowed to complete the modified version of the Annual Survey. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that the certifying boards that do not have a status of "Recognition" will be required to complete the full annual survey until they achieve compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition*. Further, newly recognized certifying boards must show continued compliance on the full Annual Survey for a period of three (3) years before being allowed to complete the modified Annual Survey.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the revised timetable and format of the Annual Survey with the recognized certifying boards completing the full Annual Survey every three (3) years and the completion of the modified Annual Survey in the intervening years.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Requirements for Recognition: Below are the actions taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Requirements for Recognition:

Informational Report Related to Discussion with the Council on Dental Education and Licensure Related to the Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists: The National Commission Board of Commissioners discussed an informational discussion related to the National Commission's discussion with the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) in June 2021.

In April 2021, the Board of Commissioners discussed potential strategies on how to address their concerns with the *Requirements for Recognition*, which included the National Commission chair addressing the American Dental Association (ADA) Board of Trustees and/or CDEL. As part of the April 2021 discussion, the Board of Commissioners determined that the best strategy would be to obtain support from CDEL to make a recommendation to the ADA Houses of Delegates to make *Bylaws* changes that give the National Commission ownership and authority over the *Requirements for Recognition*. The National Commission's goal of having ownership and authority over the *Requirements for Recognition* is to make a stronger National Commission and ADA by removing any perceived conflicts of interest.

The Board of Commissioners learned that in June 2021, the National Commission sent communication to CDEL requesting support with the National Commission's Request for Oversight of the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*. Dr. Alan Friedel, chair, National Commission, attended a portion of the June 2021 CDEL meeting and addressed the National Commission's concerns with the *Requirements for Recognition*; however, CDEL took no action on the National Commission request.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that the National Commission is the only commission housed within the ADA governance that does not have the autonomy to develop and revise the standards that it uses to evaluate compliance with those standards. Moreover, it is a best practice that the development and revision of standards should be an objective process and not dependent on approval from a political body, such as the House of Delegates. The Board of Commissioners discussed that by having CDEL and the House of Delegates control the content of the *Requirements for Recognition*, it still places the ADA at risk because it could be surmised that the ADA has an undue influence over the specialty recognition process and jeopardizes the ability of the National Commission to make unbiased recognition decisions. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that the outcomes and decisions over the past five (5) years strongly suggest that the National Commission is now experienced enough to be able to take on the additional responsibility of sole autonomy over the *Requirement for Recognition*.

This report is informational; therefore, no action was required.

Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the proposed revisions to the *Requirements for Recognition* to be submitted as the National Commission's public comment to the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL).

The Board of Commissioners learned that in October 2021, the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates adopted Resolution 108 directing CDEL to review the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists* in 2022 instead of 2023, with a report of its findings and any proposed revisions to 2022 ADA House of Delegates and National Commission. The Board of Commissioners further learned that on February 10, 2022 CDEL circulated their one (1) word proposed revision to the *Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards* to communities of interest for comment.

The Board of Commissioners discussed that the one (1) word revision made by CDEL was the exact revision the National Commission had requested in 2020; however at that time, CDEL declined the National Commission's request. The Board of Commissioners discussed that the National Commission's proposed revisions were editorial in nature to provide greater clarity to the *Requirements for Recognition* and do not change the original intent of the *Requirements*. The Board of Commissioners discussed that over the past five (5) years, the National Commission has had the opportunity to utilize the *Requirements for Recognition* to recognize three (3) new dental specialties and three (3) new specialty certifying boards, along with conducting the ten-year periodic review of the specialties and reviewing the Annual Surveys of the certifying boards. Based on this significant experience, the National Commission has been able to identify proposed revisions which will address recurring *Requirements* interpretation issues with applicants, the current recognized specialties, the current recognized certifying boards and the National Commission itself. The Board of Commissioners further discussed that through its proposed revisions to the *Requirements for Recognition*, the National Commission's goal is to make the requirements more complete, understandable and thorough.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the revised *Requirements for Recognition* to be submitted to CDEL as the National Commission public comment.

Election of Vice-Chair of the Commission: In accordance with the *Rules* of the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards, the Board of Commissioners elects a Vice-Chair who is active, life or retired member of the American Dental Association.

Commission Action: The National Commission elects Dr. Gayle Glenn to serve as its Vice Chair for 2022-2023.

Future Meeting Dates: The National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards reviewed the meeting dates of the 2023, 2024 and 2025 meetings.

This report is informational in nature and no action was taken.

Adjournment: The National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards adjourned at 2:24 pm central standard time, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.