

MINUTES

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
3:00 P.M. CENTRAL TIME**

Call to Order: The National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (National Commission) Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by the chair, Dr. Cynthia Sherwood, on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 3:03 p.m. Central Time. The meeting was held via video conference call.

Roll Call: Dr. Jeannie Beauchamp, Dr. Kitrina Cordell, Dr. Renee Fennell, Dr. James Fricton, Dr. Alan Gluskin, Dr. Sharon Gordon, Dr. Wendy Hupp, Dr. Rujuta Katkar, Dr. Mark Livingston, Dr. Jeffrey Lodl, Dr. Michael Mashni, Dr. Kathleen Murphy, Dr. Gregory Ogata, Dr. David Okano, Dr. Richard Potter, Dr. Stephen Radack, Dr. Jignesh Rudani, Dr. Sara Spurlock, Dr. B.D. Tiner, Dr. Michael Ungerleider, Dr. Ben Warner and Dr. Douglas Wyckoff (vice-chair) were present. Dr. Joseph Gambacorta and Dr. Stephen Hudis were unable to participate in the meeting.

Board of Trustees Liaison: Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth, Fifth District Trustee, American Dental Association (ADA).

Commission Guests: Dr. Anthony Carroccia, American Board of General Dentistry and Dr. Andrew Kwasny, Communication Consultant.

Commission Staff: Ms. Catherine Baumann, interim staff, National Commission and Mr. Nicholas Salerno, interim director, National Commission.

ADA Staff: Ms. Katharine Dunn, Esq., senior associate general counsel

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. Sherwood directed the Commission's attention to the National Commission Conflict of Interest Policy and reminded commissioners of their obligation to make disclosures as appropriate. There were no reported conflicts of interest.

Confidentiality Policy: Dr. Sherwood directed the Commission's attention to the National Commission Confidentiality Policy and reminded commissioners that all business conducted during Board of Commissioners meeting is confidential and conducted in closed session.

Fiduciary Responsibility and Reminder of Professional Conduct Policy and Prohibition Against Harassment: Ms. Katharine Dunn, 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 Approved Since Last Commission Meeting

- March 18, 2025, National Commission Meeting Minutes
- June 26, 2025, National Commission Meeting Minutes

Report of Standing Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy Review

- Report Related to Progress on National Commission 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

Report of Standing Committee on Finance

- Informational Report on Finance Committee Responsibilities Related to National Commission 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
- Consideration of 2026-2031 Shared Services Agreement with the American Dental Association

Report of Review Committee on Specialty Recognition

- Report on Review Committee on Specialty Recognition Responsibilities Related to 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

Report of Review Committee on Specialty Certifying Board Recognition

- Informational Report on Review Committee on Specialty Certifying Board Recognition Responsibilities Related to 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
- Consideration of 2026 Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards and Final Actions

Report of Standing Committee on Communication and Technology

- Informational Report on Standing Committee on Communication and Technology Responsibilities Related to 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
- Report Related to Progress on National Commission Communication Plan
- Consideration of Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Dental Healthcare Organizations Proposed Investigative and Implementation Strategies to Communicate with Non-Dental Healthcare Organizations

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on ADA Council, Committee and Taskforce Relationships

- Informational Report on the Charge of the Ad Hoc Committee on ADA Council and Committee Taskforce Relationships
- Report on the Ad Hoc Committee on ADA Council and Committee Taskforce Relationships Responsibilities Related to the National Commission 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Engagement and Compensation

- Informational Report on the Charge of the Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Engagement and Compensation
- Informational Report on Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Engagement and Compensation Responsibilities Related to 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

Emerging Trends and Miscellaneous Affairs

- 2026-2029 Meeting Dates

Report of the Standing Committee on Strategic Planning and Policy Review: Below is the action 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 new policies and revisions to Section IV. Policies and Procedures Related to the Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards, revisions to Section V. Complaints, and revisions to Section VI. Due Process of the National Commission Policy and Procedure Manual.

Section IV: Policies and Procedures Related to the Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards

National Commission Recognition Status Definitions

The addition of the recognition status of Initial Recognition of a Certifying Board When Recognition has Been Withdrawn from a Previously Recognized Certifying Board provides the Board of Commissioners with the ability to grant the certifying board initial recognition if all of the other *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists (Requirements for Recognition)* have been met except for the administration of an examination. If a certifying board is granted this initial recognition status, the board would be required to submit a report, including the examination technical report, to the National Commission within twelve (12) months.

Policy on Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice

Revision clarifies that once the Periodic Review and its documentation is submitted, the National Commission has the ability to share the documentation if necessary.

Policy on the Annual Report of the Recognized Certifying Boards

Revision clarifies that once the Annual Review and its documentation is submitted, the National Commission has the ability to share the documentation if necessary.

Application Process for Recognition of a New Dental Specialty Certifying Board When Recognition Has Been withdrawn from a Previously Recognized Certifying Board

The new policy is almost identical to the National Commission policy on the Application Process for Recognition of a Dental Specialty Certifying Board and has language added related to recognizing a new certifying board when recognition has been withdrawn from a previous certifying board.

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

Revisions add language to the policy related to procedures the National Commission will follow related to Recognition of a New Dental Specialty Certifying Board When Recognition has been Withdrawn from a Previously Recognized Certifying Board.

Policy on Recognized Specialty Sponsoring Organization Survey related to Reporting changes to Best Practices in the Specialty and Oral Healthcare Delivery

New policy was developed based on Goal 2. Objective 3. of the National Commission 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Because the *Periodic Review of Dental Specialty Education and Practice* is conducted every ten (10) years, the Board of Commissioners determined that conducting a short survey every five (5) years related to changes in the delivery of oral healthcare and best practices would allow the National Commission to monitor major changes in a timelier manner.

Section V: Complaints

Complaints

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide clarification to the policy .

Section VI: Due Process

Policy on Due Process Related to Review Committee and Board of Commissioners Meetings Special Appearances

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide clarification to the policy.

Function and Procedures of the Appeal Board and Appeal Board Hearing Panel

Revisions were editorial in nature to provide clarification to the policy.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the revised and new policies in Section IV. Policies and Procedures Related to the Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards, revised policy in Section V. Complaints, and revised policies in Section VI. Due Process of the National Commission Policy and Procedure Manual.

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

Consideration of 2026 Revised Forecast Budget: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the 2026 revised forecast budget.

The Board of Commissioners noted that because the April 2026 annual meeting is a remote meeting a revised forecast budget for 2026 was developed.

In June 2025, the Board of Commissioners approved the proposed 2026 National Commission budget that accounted for:

- A one (1) day in-person meeting and includes costs related to volunteer travel expenses including airfare, stipend, hotel, and meals.
- Attendance of the National Commission Chair, Vice-Chair and staff at the Summer 2026 recognized certifying board meeting.
- Attendance of the National Commission Chair at the ADA House of Delegates meeting in October 2026.
- A \$3,500 consultant honorarium related to the implementation of the National Commission 2025-2030 Communication Plan and the development of a strategic communication plan for communicating with non-dental healthcare organizations and
- An \$11,744 consultant fee to continue training the new National Commission Director and assistance on large projects associated with the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and 2025-2030 Communication Plan.

The Board of Commissioners noted that the 2026 revised forecast budget proposes an overall expense decrease from \$265,730 to \$228,929, a reduction of \$36,801. The expense decreases result in a \$1,534 decrease in the annual fee for each of the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organizations from \$11,072 to \$9,538. The 2026 revised forecast budget still contains funds budgeted for the National Commission Chair, Vice-Chair and Staff to attend a specialty certifying board meeting in August 2026 and having the chair attend the ADA House of Delegates Meeting in October 2026.

The revised forecast budget also includes fees for two (2) consultants to continue working with the Board of

Commissioners, staff and various Ad Hoc, Standing and Review Committees on various projects.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adopts the 2026 revised forecast budget.

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

Discussion Related to Feedback on Subspecialty Designation and Potential Next Steps: The National Commission Board of Commissioners discussed feedback from the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA), the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organizations, and the recognized specialty certifying boards

The Board of Commissioners noted that in May 2024, representatives from the National Commission met with representatives from CEBJA and learned that in order to move forward with subspecialty designation, the National Commission would need to formally petition the ADA Board of Trustees and House of Delegates for a *Bylaws* change to add language related to subspecialties. Further, in July 2024, the National Commission received communication from CEBJA approving the opinion from the *Bylaws* subcommittee to amend Chapter IX. of the *ADA Constitution and Bylaws* related to the recognition of subspecialties by the National Commission.

The Board of Commissioners noted that in November 2024, the National Commission sent communication to CDEL requesting feedback on the concept of subspecialty designation. In January 2025, representatives from the National Commission attended the CDEL meeting. Further, in February 2025, the National Commission received communication from CDEL supporting the concept.

The Board of Commissioners noted that in December 2024, the National Commission sent communication to the recognized specialty sponsoring organizations requesting feedback on the concept of subspecialty designation. In March 2025, representatives from the National Commission attended the Dental Specialty Group meeting. Nine (9) of the twelve (12) recognized specialty sponsoring organizations provided feedback. Of the nine (9) responses, three (3) organizations supported the concept with no concerns, two (2) organizations supported the concept but had concerns related to unintended potential consequences and three (3) organizations did not support the concept based on the following concerns:

- Not a sufficient benefit to the profession and public
- Creating confusion among the public
- Dilution of the visibility of the currently recognized specialties
- Erosion of trust
- Fragmentation and interprofessional competition
- Lack of demonstrated need

The Board of Commissioners noted that in January 2025, the National Commission sent communication to the recognized specialty certifying boards requesting feedback on the concept of subspecialty designation. Nine (9) of the twelve (12) recognized specialty certifying boards provided feedback. Of the nine (9) responses, four (4) organizations supported the concept with no concerns, two (2) organizations supported the concept but were not prepared to offer further comment on the criteria, and three (3) organizations did not support the concept based on the following concerns:

- Offers their own Certificates of Additional Qualifications
- Would not provide significant benefits to the profession and public
- Risk of confusion among the public
- Potential overlap of skills
- National Commission should seek input from a broader audience

The Board of Commissioners discussed whether there was a difference between the terms “fellowship” and “subspecialty” or whether the terms were interchangeable. The Board of Commissioners also discussed whether changing the term to “fellowship” and/or the National Commission publicly acknowledging that there are Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited fellowship programs that exist within the specialties of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and Prosthodontics would be a compromise to garner support and decrease concerns related to confusion among the public/patients and any other unforeseen consequences. Further, because there are CODA accredited fellowship programs, the Board of Commissioners determined that if subspecialties were not recognized, there would not be a negative impact on the fellowships, nor would there be a negative impact on those practitioners who wish to further their training in a

discipline specific fellowship.

The Board of Commissioners determined that based on the feedback from the recognized specialty sponsoring organizations and certifying boards, there was not sufficient support for the concept of subspecialties.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners determined that based on the lack of sufficient support for the concept of subspecialty designation among communities of interest, the National Commission will not proceed with the concept of subspecialty designation at this time.

Further, the National Commission Board of Commissioners directs staff to contact the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA) to see if there is anything preventing the National Commission from publicly acknowledging and/or providing educational information on the CODA accredited fellowships.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Dental Healthcare Relationships: Below is the action taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Dental Healthcare Relationships:

Discussion Related to Implementing a Strategic Communication Plan to Establish Working Relationships with Non-Dental Healthcare Organizations: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered the list of non-dental healthcare organizations to be contacted in 2026 and 2027 and the communication strategies to improve the understanding of the role and importance of the dental specialties in the dental profession.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners approves the communication strategies and list of non-dental healthcare organizations outside of dentistry to be contacted in 2026 and 2027.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Engagement and Compensation: Below are the actions taken by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Engagement and Compensation:

Discussion Related to The Staffing Needs of The National Commission: The National Commission Board of Commissioners discussed the National Commission's staffing capacity and noted that while it was determined in October 2017 that a 1.0 full-time equivalent employee would staff the Commission, the workload has more than doubled over the past several years due to the 2025–2030 Strategic and Communication Plans. The increased workload creates sustainability and continuity risks. The Commission currently utilizes two consultants to support strategic planning, communications, and operational continuity. The committee determined that hiring an additional full-time employee is not necessary at this time and recommended continuing long-term consultant support. The Commission further recommended that the proposed 2027 budget include funding for Dr. Kwasny and Ms. Baumann from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027, with staffing needs to be reassessed in late 2027.

Commission Action: The National Commission Board of Commissioners approves the extension of Ms. Cathy Baumann's contract to December 31, 2026.

Further, the National Commission Board of Commissioners approves the retention of Dr. Andrew Kwasny as a consultant in 2027 with a fee of \$3,500.

Further, the National Commission Board of Commissioners approves hiring Ms. Cathy Baumann as a long-term consultant from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027, at Ms. Baumann's current hourly rate.

Report on Emerging Trends and Miscellaneous Affairs: Below are informational discussions by the National Commission Board of Commissioners related to emerging trends and miscellaneous affairs:

Presentation from the American Board of General Dentistry: The National Commission Board of Commissioners considered a presentation by Dr. Anthony Carroccia of the American Board of General Dentistry (ABGD).

The presentation requested that the National Commission establish a formal review pathway for certifying boards in general dentistry. The Commission determined that due to the requirement for a *Bylaws* change this request is outside of its purview and should be directed to the ADA House of Delegates (HOD) for consideration. The Commission directed staff to send a follow-up communication to Dr. Carroccia stating that the ABGD request should be directed to the HOD.

Recognition of Commissioners and Appeal Board Members whose Terms Expire in October 2026: The following Commissioners and Appeal Board Members were recognized by the Board of Commissioners for their service to the National Commission:

Board of Commissioners

- Dr. Jeannie Beauchamp
- Dr. Alan Gluskin
- Dr. Stephen Hudis
- Dr. Kathleen Murphy
- Dr. Stephen Radack
- Dr. Ben Warner

Appeal Board Members

- Dr. Wayne Aldredge
- Dr. Joseph Battaglia
- Dr. Renee Broughten
- Dr. Ashley Clark
- Dr. Alan Friedel
- Dr. Daniel Joseph
- Dr. Keith Krell
- Dr. Saulo Sousa Melo
- Dr. Frank Tuminelli
- Dr. Robert Weyant

Adjournment: The National Commission Board of Commissioners adjourned at 5:13 p.m. central time, Monday, April 20, 2026.