

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**APRIL 26, 2019**  
**1:00PM**  
IDA CENTRAL OFFICE

Dr. Holm called the meeting to order at 1:00pm with the following members present: Drs. Steve Holm (chair), David Holwager, Jenny Neese, John Roberts, Tim Treat, Terry Schechner (via Zoom remote) and Mr. Doug Bush. Guests: Dr. Bill Risk. Absent: Dr. Greg Phillips, Mr. Ed Popcheff.

**I. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of the January 25, 2019, meeting were unavailable.

**II. 2019 General Assembly**

Dr. Holm provided a briefing on the legislative session that had ended earlier in the week:

**IDA Supported Issues that Passed:**

HB 1444 - Tobacco Regulation. HB 1444 proposed a tax on e-cigarettes. The bill was amended to urge assignment to an interim study committee to review taxation of CBD oil and vaping products.

HB 1569 - Licensing Issues. HB 1569 corrects an error in last year's Hygiene Access Bill, and gives the IUSD Dean requested revisions to dental faculty license limitations.

HB 1308 - Medicaid Audits. HB 1308 called for additional guidelines for Medicaid provider audits.

HB 1348 - Medicaid Oversight. HB 1548 proposed additional legislators be added to the Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) and required that specific provider issues be studied by the MAC.

**IDA Supported Issues that Failed:**

Student Loan Forgiveness  
Definition of Dentistry  
Support for Dental School Funding

**IDA Opposed Issues that Failed:**

Mandatory Electronic Prescriptions

There was discussion on whether the Mandatory Electronic Prescriptions bill would be reintroduced. If the issue is not dead, it was felt that IDA should work with ISMA in introducing our own version of the bill. Ed Popcheff will be asked to assess whether this issue is expected to reemerge so that we can proactively respond, if needed.

Overall, Dr. Holm felt that it had been a successful legislative session.

### **III. ADA Dentist/Student Lobby Day and IDA Dental Day at the Capitol**

This year's ADA Lobby Day was generally considered a success. There was dissatisfaction with the hotel and this will be communicated to the ADA's planners. The IDA dinner was a success and considered by many to be the highlight of the trip. There was confusion regarding the dinner count and reservation, which prompted a move to more expensive location. IDPAC has agreed to pick up the cost for the difference between what IDA budgeted and the actual cost. The students did an excellent job presenting to members of the congressional staff. There continues to be praise for holding the meeting jointly with dental students.

Dr. Treat summarized a debriefing meeting that he had with Mr. Bush regarding Dental Day at the Capitol. This year was improved over last year, but there continues to be a need for adjustments as we attempt to improve the joint event with IUSD students. Observations and recommendations that came out of their meeting included:

- The small group time with students, led by contact dentists, was the most productive time of the day. Students were able to learn the issues and see how they applied to patients and dental practices. It also provided an excellent mentoring opportunity for students and dentists.
- The contact dentists self introductions and "How I met my legislator," discussion was helpful and enlightening, demonstrating the diversity in dentist/representative relationships and how they came to be. Interestingly, several students had relationships with legislators through personal or family connections.
- It was felt that there is no need for a keynote speaker. More small group and Q&A time is preferred over formal presentations and lectures.
- Lunch needs to be earlier so that Statehouse visits can begin sooner. The buffet lunch needs to be replaced with box lunches. This will speed up the serving process, allow for a working lunch, and better accommodate dentists/students who have morning appointments. They can return and have lunch after their visits.
- There continues to be a need for advance appointments with legislators. If we know about the appointments further in advance, dentists can be better paired with students from the same district. Out-of-state students can tag along, but legislators clearly prefer meeting dentists and students from their district.
- The event needs to end earlier. Participants (dentists and students) seemed to be uncertain as to what to do once the Houses went into session and legislators were unavailable.
- An attempt should be made to schedule a group meeting with the Governor, akin to previous meetings with the Lt. Governor.
- The date for next year's meeting needs to be set as soon as possible. Consideration should be given to student testing schedules.
- Especially during long sessions, there may be a need for two Dental Days... one dentist only Dental Day early in the session to push for getting our bills a hearing; another later in the session when committee and House/Senate votes are taking place. Too many of our issues were dead before the 2019 Dental Day took place.

#### **IV. Dental Therapist Report**

Dr. Holwager led the group through the strategy document the Access/Workforce Subcommittee had developed (attachment 1). Discussion focused on the following points:

**Loan Forgiveness** – The coalition bill fared no better than our previous dental only bills. Will Rep. Manning be reintroducing a bill? Should we approach him about sponsoring a bill in the next session, or consider someone with more experience/influence to carry the bill? Was the Governor’s Health Workforce Group active in supporting the bill, or did they go dark once their recommendations were formulated? Is the \$500,000 appropriation a poison pill? Dr. Schechner noted that the legislators he spoke with at Dental Day seem supportive of the concept, but none knew anything about the bill. It was suggested that Ed Popcheff communicate with other associations to assess their degree of interest in forming an active coalition. Perhaps IDA could take the lead. Mr. Bush said that he would inquire of the Bowen Center as to whether the bill will be discussed at the upcoming Health Workforce Summit.

**Mal-distribution of Dentist** – The group discussed whether IDA could better assist dentists in rural areas in marketing their practices when they are for sale. It is felt that many young dentists do not understand the potential for successful practices in small town or rural areas. It was suggested that a webinar be developed that profiles successful small town practices. Dr. Treat also pointed out the professional development committee’s intent to develop a “Yes You Can” educational series that helps new dentists understand that practice ownership is still a viable option.

**Expanded Function Dental Assistants** – There was discussion as to whether EFDAs strengthen or weaken the case for dental therapists. On one hand, dentists are already effectively using members of the dental team to expand access. Alternatively, therapist proponents could point to EFDAs as an example how mid-level providers might improve access.

**Expanding the CDHC Program** – It was agreed that it would be helpful to have at least some Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHCs) in Indiana. Online training programs are available. It was felt that the program might be attractive to mid and late-career hygienists who are looking at alternatives to direct patient care. It was also noted that it might be helpful to identify job opportunities for individuals before they actually enter the training programs.

**Advocacy Effectiveness** – There was general discussion as to how IDA can improve legislative effectiveness by expanding and more effectively using the Contact Dentist program. It was also suggested that the annual issues planning meeting might be moved to earlier in the summer, and general issue sheets be developed for summer visits with legislators. Dr. Holwager explained the two strategies for dealing with midlevel provider proposals: One for proactively addressing the issue before there is a legislative proposal; The second for IDA’s response should a bill be introduced. Both messages should emphasize improving access and what is best for the public.

## **V. Oral Health Position Paper**

Dr. Holwager presented the committee a listing of proposed IDA positions that he felt should be presented for IDA Board or House adoption. The paper, patterned after similar documents adopted by Kentucky and other states, outlined general position statements that allow for quicker responses from IDA when legislative bills are introduced. As outlined, the paper covers positions on the following issues: Opioid Epidemic, Smoke-free Initiatives; Water Fluoridation, Medicaid, Coordination of Care, McCarran-Ferguson Act, Non-covered Services, Network Leasing, Loan Forgiveness, Higher Education Funding, Provider Taxes, Soda Taxes, Professional Services Taxes, and Preceptor Tax Initiatives.

The Committee was generally receptive to the policy statements, only expressing concern about the McCarran-Ferguson Act, since it: 1) Related to a federal issue instead of a state issue; 2) Related to a specific legislative issue, in contrast to the more general issues contemplated by the other policies. Dr. Holwager said that he would replace the reference with more general language.

Mr. Bush noted that it would be appropriate to present the policy statements to the upcoming House. He agreed to put the paper in resolution form (see attachment 2). Dr. Holwager said that he would address the proposal at the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for the next day.

The committee voted to support the Policy Statement, as amended.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. The Committee discussed using an ADA SPA grant to develop an Indiana-specific training video on how a dentist can most effectively communicate with legislators. Mr. Bush said that he could investigate the application deadline for SPA funds. (Follow-up Note: The deadline for 2019 SPA applications was October 31, 2018. The Committee can consider an application for 2020 this fall, should the ADA continue to fund the program.)
- B. Mr. Bush reported that the Finance Committee has recommended a \$50 dues increase to be used to fund an additional employee to assist with public affairs. He said that this crossover position would bring additional support to communications efforts in general, but specifically to governmental affairs during the legislative session. The new person would help develop and communicate legislative updates to Engage participants and contact dentists.

The committee voted to support the dues increase and employee addition.

- VII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2019.

