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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

<u>Background</u>: The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) charge is to:

- Develop and implement an ongoing strategic planning process;
- Develop and implement a formal program of outcomes assessment tied to strategic planning;
- Use results of the assessment processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the Commission and make recommendations for appropriate changes, including the appropriateness of its structure;
- Monitor USDE, and other quality assurance organizations e.g. Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), American National Standards Institute/International Organization for Standardization (ANSI/ISO), and International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) for trends and changes in parameters of quality assurance; and
- Monitor and make recommendations to the Commission regarding changes that may affect its operations, including expansion of scope and international issues.

January 16, 2025 Meeting of the QASP: The QASP conducted a virtual meeting on January 16, 2025. Members of the Standing Committee: Dr. Frank Licari (chair), Ms. Margaret Bowman-Pensel, Dr. Joseph Giovannitti, Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. Cataldo Leone, and Dr. Monica Nenad, were in attendance. Dr. Carolyn Brown and Dr. Nancy Rosenthal were unable to attend. Commissioners: Dr. Frank Licari, chair and member of committee, and Dr. Cataldo Leone, vice chair and member of committee, ex officio, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) were also in attendance. Commission Staff: Dr. Sherin Tooks, senior director, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, and Ms. Jamie Asher Hernandez, Ms. Jessica Lynk, Mr. Shawn Morrison, Dr. Yesenia Ruiz, Ms. Kelly Stapleton, and Ms. Taylor Weast, managers, CODA attended the meeting.

The QASP initiated its meeting with a review of the charge to the Standing Committee. Discussion was focused on review of the 2022-2026 CODA Strategic Plan Tracking and Operational Effectiveness Tracking. The Committee also discussed ongoing quality assurance and strategic planning activities, and additional items of interest to CODA related to strategic planning and operational effectiveness. Below is a summary of QASP discussions and recommendations.

Consideration of 2022-2026 CODA Strategic Plan Tracking Sheet and Operational Effectiveness Tracking Sheet: The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) reviewed the 2022-2026 CODA Strategic Plan (Appendix 1), which was adopted by the Commission in Summer 2021, following a Strategic Planning Mega Issue Discussion, and implemented January 1, 2022. The Standing Committee also reviewed the Commission's progress toward the goals and strategies with progress noted within its Strategic Plan Tracking Sheet (Appendix 2). Further, QASP members considered the Commission's Operational Effectiveness Tracking Sheet, which aligns and provides details on specific CODA work initiatives of the prior year (Appendix 3).

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The QASP noted the accomplishments in 2024 and progress with ongoing activities related to the strategic initiatives. The Committee identified that a significant amount of work was accomplished related to various aspects of the strategic plan and operational effectiveness plan. Of note, the QASP identified the hiring of two (2) managers, the Manager, Communication and Data Management and the Manager, Training and Assessment, and the promotion of one (1) staff to the new position Senior Manager, Administration and Committees. The Standing Committee also noted that 18 new programs were granted accreditation in 2024. The Committee also noted various Standards revisions and training programs that were completed or remain ongoing, and several Ad Hoc Committees which conducted work in 2024. The Committee was informed that requests for verification of accreditation of programs has taken a considerable amount of staff time, and it was suggested by CODA staff to investigate whether CODA's historical accredited program listing could be published to the Commission's website. The Committee discussed whether CODA should charge a fee for verification requests, as is the case with other dental agencies, but concluded that the time and effort to process fees may not be worthwhile at this time although CODA may consider this topic in the future. The Standing Committee also noted CODA's re-recognition by the United States Department of Education is to occur in 2027, and the Commission's petition will be due in Summer 2025. The Committee noted that the CODA Strategic Plan expires in December 2026, and considered whether the plan should be extended an additional year. Following consideration, the Standing Committee believed that the Commission is making appropriate progress on the 2022-2026 CODA Strategic Plan.

Consideration of Ongoing Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Activities

Review of Shared Services Agreement Between the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and the American Dental Association (ADA): The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) discussed CODA's Shared Services Agreement with the ADA, which was signed in September 2022 for the period of January 1, 2022 through January 1, 2025. The QASP noted that the Shared Services Agreement has expired, and the ADA-CODA Relationship Workgroup previously discussed components of the agreement in Summer 2024, although no proposed revisions were considered at that time. The Standing Committee noted that the Finance Committee of the Commission will make recommendations related to the Administrative Fund and Shared Services Agreement; however, at this time there was insufficient information on future Commission expenses regarding meeting space utilization, staffing needs, technology needs, and other areas for which there could be a budget impact. The QASP determined it would continue to monitor this matter in relation to CODA's long-term strategic plan. Additional information is found within the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (Finance Report p. 1900, Winter 2025).

Additional Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Items for Discussion

Activities Related to the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC): The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) received an update regarding the CDAC's request to CODA to consider reciprocity in oral medicine. The Committee noted that CODA staff had inquired related to the CDAC's members on an Ad Hoc Committee to consider oral medicine reciprocity and is awaiting a response from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

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<u>Trends in Dental Education, Practice, Research, and Higher Education, and Update on United States Department of Education and General Accreditation Matters:</u> The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) discussed several trends in higher education and accreditation. The QASP noted the United States Department of Education (USDE) petition for re-recognition process and timeline, as noted above. Additionally, QASP noted the Commission's ongoing efforts to provide professional development to Commissioners through Mega Issue discussions, which recently focused on artificial intelligence, and a planned session in Winter 2025 on assessment in dental education.

Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Committee Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

Commission Actions:

Prepared by: Dr. Sherin Tooks



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COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION 2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.

Vision

The Commission on Dental Accreditation is a globally recognized leader for accrediting educational programs in the dental professions.

Values

The Commission is committed to:

- Collegiality
- Consistency
- Integrity
- Quality
- Transparency

Adopted August 5, 2016; Revised August 6, 2021

2022-2026 Areas of Strategic Priority

Accreditation Process and Outcomes

- Viability and impact of the accreditation process
- Global accreditation
- Technology for the accreditation process

Organizational Effectiveness

- Long term continued financial self-sufficiency
- Technology for communication, internal processes
- Human Resources capacity
- Future structure, including size, of the Commission and new dental discipline(s)

Confidence in Accreditation and the Commission's Reputation

- Communication and messaging strategies and platforms
- Analysis and demonstration of the outcomes and impact of accreditation
- Involvement of communities of interest



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Area of Strategic Priority: Accreditation Process and Outcomes

Goals	Strategies
The Commission's process of accreditation is viewed by programs as a valuable resource in guiding continuous programmatic improvements.	Foster the real value of the accreditation process to programs. Review and develop mechanisms to increase program appreciation of the value of accreditation, including appreciation for the process of standards development. Provide greater guidance to eligible programs in the accreditation process through enhanced technology usage (electronic accreditation) and mapping processes, a library of tools, expanding resources, and improved templates.
The Commission continues to be the trustworthy accrediting agency for all dental education programs with communities of interest, including licensing entities.	Monitor licensure requirements in the United States and Canada. Educate the licensure community on the value of Commission accreditation.
The Commission supports and guides the process for U.S. and international program accreditation.	Survey programs to determine if our approach is comprehensive. Foster and maintain relationships with international programs and organizations.



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Area of Strategic Priority: Organizational Effectiveness

Goals	Strategies
The Commission has continued financial self- sufficiency to carry out its activities related to the Commission's business purpose and operations.	Develop resources to cover emergency expenses, unforeseen circumstances, strategic initiatives, and have appropriate autonomous access to these resources. Continue to establish robust and financially sustainable processes to accredit U.S. and international programs to improve dental education worldwide.
The Commission is efficient in managing the accreditation processes, both internal and external.	Review and streamline current internal and external accreditation processes to realize financial efficiencies. Review and refine electronic processes for submission of materials from programs. Review and refine electronic processes for material review by Review Committees and the Commission.
The Commission's human and operational resource capacity reflects the skill sets needed to support its strategic and operational needs. The Commission's structure meets the changing environment of dental education and practice.	Review and build human (staff and volunteer) and operational resource capacity to meet the current and future demands of the Commission. Initiate and lead the discussion with communities of interest to evaluate the structure of the Commission with regard to representation from the communities of interest (for example, organize a summit). Continually evaluate committee structures. Monitor the dental education environment for changes that may affect the Commission's structure.



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Area of Strategic Priority: Confidence in Accreditation and the Commission's Reputation

Goals	Strategies
The Control of the Co	
The Commission regularly assesses its communication, messaging strategies, and	Obtain a baseline for communication and messaging.
platforms to enhance its impact.	Develop electronic platforms to deliver
production and the state of the	messaging across communities of interest.
	Enhance communication on a regular basis from
	Commission staff to governmental agencies
	(Federal, State and Local).
The Commission consistently tracks analysis and	Study the accreditation process using
demonstration of the outcomes and impact of	appropriate strategies, including engaging with
accreditation.	an outside expert consultant.
The Commission effectively involves its	Conduct presentations at major professional
communities of interest in the work of the	meetings, and increase opportunities for
Commission.	involvement through workshops and virtual
	platforms.
	Develop webinars, informational graphics, and
	training materials for programs and site visitors.
	Enhance communication via synchronous and
	asynchronous sessions.

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COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

2022-2026 Strategic Plan				
MISSION	VISION	VALUES	GOALS (Area of Strategic Priority)	STRATEGIES
The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.	The Commission on Dental Accreditation is a globally recognized leader for accrediting educational programs in the dental professions.	The Commission is committed to: Collegiality Consistency Integrity Quality Transparency	1. Accreditation Process and Outcomes: 1. The Commission's process of accreditation is viewed by programs as a valuable resource in guiding continuous programmatic improvements. 2. The Commission continues to be the trustworthy accrediting agency for all dental education programs with communities of interest, including licensing entities. 3. The Commission supports and guides the process for U.S. and international program accreditation. 2. Organizational Effectiveness: 1. The Commission has continued financial self-sufficiency to carry out its activities related to the Commission's business purpose and operations. 2. The Commission is efficient in managing the accreditation processes, both internal and external.	la) Foster the real value of the accreditation process to programs. 1b) Review and develop mechanisms to increase program appreciation of the value of accreditation, including appreciation for the process of standards development. 1c) Provide greater guidance to eligible programs in the accreditation process through enhanced technology usage (electronic accreditation) and mapping processes, a library of tools, expanding resources, and improved templates. 2a) Monitor licensure requirements in the United States and Canada. 2b) Educate the licensure community on the value of Commission accreditation. 3a) Survey programs to determine if our approach is comprehensive. 3b) Foster and maintain relationships with international programs and organizations. 1a) Develop resources to cover emergency expenses, unforeseen circumstances, strategic initiatives, and have appropriate autonomous access to these resources. 1b) Continue to establish robust and financially sustainable processes to accredit U.S. and international programs to improve dental education worldwide. 2a) Review and streamline current internal and external accreditation processes to realize financial efficiencies. 2b) Review and refine electronic processes for submission of materials from programs. 2c) Review and refine electronic processes for material review by Review Committees and the Commission.

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2 The Commission 1	3a) Review and build human (staff and volunteer) and
3. The Commission's human and	operational resource capacity to meet the current and
operational resource capacity	future demands of the Commission.
reflects the skill sets needed to	4a) Initiate and lead the discussion with communities of
support its strategic and operation	
needs.	regard to representation from the communities of
	interest (for example, organize a summit).
4. The Commission's structure	4b) Continually evaluate committee structures.
meets the changing environment of	
dental education and practice.	changes that may affect the Commission's structure.
3. Confidence in Accreditation	1a) Obtain a baseline for communication and
and the Commission's	messaging.
Reputation:	1b) Develop electronic platforms to deliver messaging
	across communities of interest.
1. The Commission regularly	1c) Enhance communication on a regular basis from
assesses its communication,	Commission staff to governmental agencies (Federal,
messaging strategies, and platforn	State and Local).
to enhance its impact.	2a) Study the accreditation process using appropriate
	strategies, including engaging with an outside expert
2. The Commission consistently	consultant.
tracks analysis and demonstration	3a) Conduct presentations at major professional
of the outcomes and impact of	meetings, and increase opportunities for involvement
accreditation.	through workshops and virtual platforms.
	3b) Develop webinars, informational graphics, and
3. The Commission effectively	training materials for programs and site visitors.
involves its communities of intere	
in the work of the Commission.	asynchronous sessions.

COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

Strategic Priority 1: Accreditation Process and Outcomes (updates for prior year in red)

			a
Goal	Strategy		Status
1. The Commission's process of	a) Foster the real value of the accreditation process to programs.	•	Site Visit Orientation Webinar (March 2023 and
accreditation is viewed by			April 2024; 3 sessions)
programs as a valuable resource		•	NADL Educator's Conference (March 2023, May
in guiding continuous programmatic improvements.			2024)
programmatic improvements.		•	Program Director 101 Webinar (April and October
			2023, March and April 2024)
		•	Q&A Webinar (March 2023, March 2024)
		•	Special Care Dentistry Association Director's
			Meeting (April 2023, December 2024)
		•	HRSA Annual Grantees Meeting (May and
			September 2023)
		•	ADEA Allied Dental Program Director's Meeting
			(June 2023, June 2024)
		•	AADOCR Meeting (October 2023)
		•	ADEA Fall Meeting (October 2023)
		•	CODA Annual Report (December 2023, December
			2024)
		•	Developed and distributed a template for allied
			dental programs to use regarding a curriculum
			cross-walk
		•	Post CODA-meeting e-mails to announce
			important CODA actions and reminders (twice,
			winter and summer, for all disciplines of CODA)
		•	In support of programs, CODA Senior Director
			and Senior Manager has conducted several
			information exchange sessions with the HRSA

	ı	
		staff regarding CODA application process and HRSA funding opportunities.
b) Review and develop mechanisms to increase program	•	Updates to CODA website regarding the
appreciation of the value of accreditation, including appreciation for		application process and revisions to Criteria for
the process of standards development.		clarity; 2024: Ongoing updates to CODA website
		to maintain current information on Standards,
		Guidelines, etc.
	•	Hearing on Standards, spring and fall 2023 and
		2024
	•	Program Director 101 Webinar (April and October
a) Duranida amantan anidan a ta ali aibla maranan in da a a anida in a		2023, March and April 2024)
c) Provide greater guidance to eligible programs in the accreditation process through enhanced technology usage (electronic	•	2024: 18 new programs granted accreditation
accreditation) and mapping processes, a library of tools, expanding	•	Program Director 101 Webinar (April and October
resources, and improved templates.		2023, March and April 2024)
	•	Site Visit Orientation Webinar (March 2023 and April 2024; 3 sessions)
		Revised Criteria for Granting Accreditation to
		clarify requirements
	•	Created new verification page for privacy and data
		security
	•	Update to application materials to include
		reference to Criteria and program completion of
		Criteria Checklist, which help direct programs to
		these requirements and direct site visitors to
		portions of application that address Criteria
	•	E-Portal (new E-accreditation portal in beginning
		stages of development; 2024: Progress is ongoing
		with build out of program application system)
	•	Revision of Submission Guidelines for Use of
		Educational Activity Sites, and Distance Education
		to create a usable table for program reporting Developed and Implemented Guidelines for
		Enrollment Increases in Dental Hygiene Education
		Programs
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		•	Developed and distributed a template for allied dental programs to use regarding a curriculum cross-walk
2. The Commission continues to be the trustworthy accrediting agency for all dental education programs with communities of interest, including licensing entities.	a) Monitor licensure requirements in the United States and Canada.	•	Ongoing: Conversations with state agencies related to Accreditation Standards, CODA process, and educational program requirements. Ongoing: Address large number of emails from internationally educated dentists and allied dental personnel on CODA process and licensure in the United States. CODA presented information on the international and U.S. CODA accreditation process to the
	b) Educate the licensure community on the value of Commission	•	California Dental Board on November 8, 2024. 80 State boards invited to attend site visits;
	accreditation.		2024: 74 invited to attend site visits
		•	29 State boards participated in site visits;
			2024: 31 participated in site visits
		•	Provided countless verification of accreditation for programs to interested parties (state agencies, credentialing organizations, etc.)
		•	CODA presented information on the international and U.S. CODA accreditation process to the California Dental Board on November 8, 2024.
		•	CODA Senior Director and Senior Manager has conducted several information exchange sessions with the HRSA staff regarding CODA application process and HRSA funding opportunities.
3. The Commission supports and guides the process for U.S. and	a) Survey programs to determine if our approach is comprehensive.	•	TBD
international program accreditation.	b) Foster and maintain relationships with international programs and organizations.	•	Ongoing, via relationship with CDAC, other international accreditation organizations, and International Standing Committee
		•	Presentation to Canadian Dental Associations of Chief Executive Officers, Dental Regulatory

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		Bodies, Examination Bodies, and Insurance Services (December 2023)
	•	Meetings with new CDAC Executive Director
	•	Attended CDAC Review Committee Meetings in
		Fall 2024 (virtual)

COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

Strategic Priority 2: Organizational Effectiveness (updates for prior year in red)

Goal	Strategy		Status
1. The Commission has continued financial self-sufficiency to carry out its activities related to the Commission's business purpose and operations.	1a) Develop resources to cover emergency expenses, unforeseen circumstances, strategic initiatives, and have appropriate autonomous access to these resources.	•	CODA signed shared services agreement with ADA September 2022, expires January 1, 2025; agreement expired CODA Financial Operations Comparative Analysis Study to be completed in 2024; 2024: Study completed in spring 2024 and CODA finances (at that time) found to be stable and adequate.
	1b) Continue to establish robust and financially sustainable processes to accredit U.S. and international programs to improve dental education worldwide.	•	CODA signed shared services agreement with ADA September 2022, expires January 1, 2025; agreement expired CODA Financial Operations Comparative Analysis Study to be completed in 2024; 2024: Study completed in spring 2024 and CODA finances (at that time) found to be stable and adequate.
2. The Commission is efficient in managing the accreditation processes, both internal and external.	2a) Review and streamline current internal and external accreditation processes to realize financial efficiencies.	•	E-Portal (new E-accreditation portal in beginning stages of development); 2024: CODA is in the process of building out the new database application and self-study site configuration and back-end database, which will improve CODA's electronic processes.
	2b) Review and refine electronic processes for submission of materials from programs.	•	E-Portal (new E-accreditation portal in beginning stages of development); 2024: CODA is in the process of building out the new database application and self-study site configuration and back-end database, which will improve CODA's electronic processes.

	2c) Review and refine electronic processes for material review by Review Committees and the Commission.	E-Portal (new E-accreditation portal in beginning stages of development); 2024: CODA is in the process of building out the new database application and self-study site configuration and back-end database, which will improve CODA's electronic processes.
3. The Commission's human and operational resource capacity reflects the skill sets needed to support its strategic and operational needs.	3a) Review and build human (staff and volunteer) and operational resource capacity to meet the current and future demands of the Commission.	 Modified CODA staffing roles and hired two (2) of three (3) CODA-approved staff positions in 2023. In 2023, CODA approved hire of one (1) additional full-time staff in 2024. In 2024, hired Manager, Communication and Data Management, hired new position Manager, Training and Assessment; hired new position Senior Manager, Administration and Committees, and filled vacant positions in coordinator and manager areas. Currently one open position – Manager, Advanced Dental Education. Human capital to be monitored related to future needs. CODA Financial Operations Comparative Analysis Study to be completed in 2024 and will include information on staff resources and volunteer engagement. 2024: Study completed in spring 2024 and CODA finances (at that time) found to be stable and adequate. Completed work of Ad Hoc Committee on Volunteerism, with further review of volunteerism by Finance Committee along with comparative analysis in 2024.
4. The Commission's structure meets the changing environment of dental education and practice.	4a) Initiate and lead the discussion with communities of interest to evaluate the structure of the Commission with regard to representation from the communities of interest (for example, organize a summit).	2024: CODA received the Report and Recommendation from the American Dental Association's Dental Deans' Stakeholder Engagement Process. CODA directed an Ad Hoc Committee study this report. Updates to occur in 2025.

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4	b) Continually evaluate committee structures.	•	Monitoring, and discuss with CODA leadership and discipline-specific Review Committee Chairs related to vacancies and volunteer needs 2024: CODA received the Report and Recommendation from the American Dental Association's Dental Deans' Stakeholder Engagement Process. CODA directed an Ad Hoc Committee study this report. Updates to occur in
	(c) Monitor the dental education environment for changes that may affect the Commission's structure.	•	Ongoing CODA reviewed request to initiate accreditation process for operative dentistry, cariology and biomaterials in Winter 2023, and determined a process would not be developed. 2024: CODA received the Report and Recommendation from the American Dental Association's Dental Deans' Stakeholder Engagement Process. CODA directed an Ad Hoc Committee study this report. Updates to occur in

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COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

Strategic Priority 3: Confidence in Accreditation and the Commission's Reputation (updates for prior year in red)

Goal	Strategy	Status
1. The Commission regularly assesses its communication, messaging strategies, and platforms to enhance its impact.	1a) Obtain a baseline for communication and messaging.	 Communication study distributed in Fall 2023 per CODA directive, with report to CODA expected in Winter 2024. In Winter 2024, CODA adopted the 2024-2028 Communication Plan and Strategy. Work has begun on the plan. In November 2024, CODA hired the Manager, Communication and Data Management, and hired a new position Manager, Training and Assessment, which will ensure ongoing communication and training strategies for the Commission.
	1b) Develop electronic platforms to deliver messaging across communities of interest.	 TBD, based on communication plan results E-Portal (new E-accreditation portal in beginning stages of development) may be considered for delivery of messages across communities of interest. 2024: CODA is in the process of building out the new e-accreditation system, which will improve CODA's electronic communication through the system to both programs and CODA volunteers, and other communities of interest.
	1c) Enhance communication on a regular basis from Commission staff to governmental agencies (Federal, State and Local).	 Several discussions with external agencies related to organizations/institutions that may sponsor advanced dental education programs Several conversations with state dental boards on CODA requirements for accreditation HRSA Annual Grantees Meeting (May and September 2023) AADOCR Meeting (October 2023)

		•	Communication with US Department of Education, as needed; 2024: several communications in 2024 regarding FAFSA and USDE criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies CODA presented information on the international and U.S. CODA accreditation process to the California Dental Board on November 8, 2024. CODA Senior Director and Senior Manager has conducted several information exchange sessions with the HRSA staff regarding CODA application process and HRSA funding opportunities.
2. The Commission consistently tracks analysis and demonstration of the outcomes and impact of accreditation.	2a) Study the accreditation process using appropriate strategies, including engaging with an outside expert consultant.	•	In 2022, CODA sought outside legal/accreditation expertise for the study of organizations/institutions that may sponsor advanced dental education programs. Proposed Standards are being circulated until June 1, 2024. 2024: Standards were adopted, with implementation January 1, 2025. In 2023, CODA engaged with a finance consultant to assist the finance committee regarding CODA's operational budget process and comparison among other accreditors. Work to be completed in 2024. 2024: Study completed in spring 2024 and CODA finances (at that time) found to be stable and adequate.
3. The Commission effectively involves its communities of interest in the work of the Commission.	3a) Conduct presentations at major professional meetings, and increase opportunities for involvement through workshops and virtual platforms.	•	Site Visitor Update Webinar (March 2023 and April 2024; 3 sessions) Site Visit Orientation Webinar (March 2023 and April 2024; 3 sessions) NADL Educator's Conference (March 2023, May 2024) Program Director 101 Webinar (April and October 2023, March and April 2024) Q&A Webinar (March 2023, March 2024)

	1	
	•	Special Care Dentistry Association Director's
		Meeting (April 2023, December 2024)
	•	HRSA Annual Grantees Meeting (May and
		September 2023)
	•	ADEA Allied Dental Program Director's Meeting
		(June 2023, June 2024)
	•	AADOCR Meeting (October 2023)
	•	ADEA Fall Meeting (October 2023)
	•	Hearing on Standards, spring and fall 2023 and
		2024
	•	Site Visitor Training Program (June and October
		2023; June 2024)
	•	New Commissioner, Review Committee and
		Appeal Board training webinar (December 2023;
		December 2024)
	•	Presentation to Canadian Dental Associations of
		Chief Executive Officers, Dental Regulatory
		Bodies, Examination Bodies, and Insurance
		Services (December 2023)
	•	CODA presented information on the international
		and U.S. CODA accreditation process to the
		California Dental Board on November 8, 2024.
	•	CODA Senior Director and Senior Manager has
		conducted several information exchange sessions
		with the HRSA staff regarding CODA application
		process and HRSA funding opportunities.
3b) Develop webinars, informational graphics, and training materials	•	Ongoing, see above for all presentations
for programs and site visitors.	•	2024: Predoctoral Chair Training, Fall 2024, with
		additional sessions planned in 2025
	•	2024: Chair Trainings for Allied and Advanced
	•	2024 – Created new verification page for privacy
		and data security
	•	In November 2024, CODA hired a new position
		Manager, Training and Assessment

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	•	Developed enhanced guidelines for reporting to
		CODA to include fillable tables for required
		submission components (2 documents recently
		converted)
	•	Revised Sensitive Personal Information (SPI) and
		Protected Health Information (PHI) process and
		guidelines.
	•	Revised administration verification page for
		submission of reports, in alignment with new
		SPI/PHI process.
	•	2023 – webinars and training programs, as noted
2) [1]		above
3c) Enhance communication via synchronous and asynchronous sessions.	•	All sessions conducted virtually to allow for
Sessions.		maximum attendance from broad communities of
		interest.
	•	2023: 99 people attending spring hearing on
		standards; 2024: 442 Registered; 223 Attended
	•	2023: 161 people attended fall hearing on
		standards; 2024: 485 Registered; 261Attended
	•	2023: 100 people attended Q&A 2024: 120
		attended Q&A
	•	2023: 686 people attended Program Director 101
		(394 April; 292 October); 2024: 325 total (20
		March; 205 April)
	•	2023: 455 people attended site visitor trainings
		(303 June; 152 October); 2024: 137 Attended
	•	2023: 69 people attended new Commissioner,
		Review Committee and Appeal Board training;
		2024: 67 Attended

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COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Operational Effectiveness Tracking

(Updated: January 2025; prior year updates are noted in red)

Strategic Priority 1: Accreditation Process and Outcomes

Goal	Strategy
1. The Commission's process of accreditation is viewed by	a) Foster the real value of the accreditation process to programs.
programs as a valuable resource in guiding continuous programmatic improvements.	b) Review and develop mechanisms to increase program appreciation of the value of accreditation, including appreciation for the process of standards development.
	c) Provide greater guidance to eligible programs in the accreditation process through enhanced technology usage (electronic accreditation) and mapping processes, a library of tools, expanding resources, and improved templates.
2. The Commission continues to be the trustworthy accrediting	a) Monitor licensure requirements in the United States and Canada.
agency for all dental education programs with communities of interest, including licensing entities.	b) Educate the licensure community on the value of Commission accreditation.
3. The Commission supports and guides the process for U.S. and	a) Survey programs to determine if our approach is comprehensive.
international program accreditation.	b) Foster and maintain relationships with international programs and organizations.

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Monitoring Mechanisms	Evaluation Mechanism	When Evaluated	Who Collects Data	Who Assesses Data	Results	Resulting Action
Conduct Validity and Reliability of Accreditation Standards	As required by policy, conduct validity and reliability study of Accreditation Standards	Periodically based on review cycle	Director/ Managers	RC/QASP/ CODA	No validity and reliability studies initiated in 2023. 2024: Dental Assisting; Oral Medicine; Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	 Dental Anesthesiology circulated through June 1, 2023, adopted Summer 2023. DPH - Circulating, V&R Study Orofacial Pain - Circulating, V&R Study 2024: All standard circulated for validity study. Dental Assisting continuing work to review Standards; OM and OMR adopted Standards are posted.
Review proposed Standards revision(s) to ensure experimentation and innovation are permitted.	Circulate proposed standards revisions to appropriate Review Committee and CODA	Periodically	Director/ Managers	RC/QASP/ CODA	Predoctoral, DA, DLT, OMR, OFP, DPH, OMS, PED, and All Advanced programs.	 Several proposed revisions were considered by CODA in 2024. Some resulted in proposed changes circulated to communities of interest, others resulted in Ad Hoc Committee review. Predoctoral – ongoing via Ad Hoc Committee; 2024: ongoing Dental Assisting – Revised Standards 2-7 and 3-6 in 2023; 2024: ongoing review for validity and reliability DLT review of Standards related to technology DPH – Revised Standard 2-24 OMR – Revised, new Standard 4-16

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						• Orofacial Pain – Revised, new Standard 2-10
						• PED – revised anesthesia Standard
						All Advanced Disciplines –
						Circulating, regarding sponsoring organization/authority to operate; 2024: adopted with implementation January 1, 2025
						Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery –
						Circulating, other proposed revisions beyond sponsoring organization/authority to operate; 2024: adopted with implementation July 1, 2025
						AEGD and GPR Standards
						circulated for optional second year; comments to be reviewed Winter 2025
						 Orofacial Pain Standard 2-11
						circulating for comment and will
						be reviewed in Summer 2025
Maintain recognition by USDE	Maintain ongoing compliance with recognition criteria. Report	Ongoing	Director	QASP/ CODA	Ongoing	2023 and 2024 - ongoing, notifications to USDE sent following each CODA meeting in accordance with regulations. 2020 2022 and October 2022
	agency activity to USDE as					• 2020 – 2022, and October 2022, re-recognition granted to CODA for the full scope of five (5) years,
	required by					with no reporting requirements.
	recognition criteria					• 2024: several communications in 2024 regarding FAFSA and USDE
						2024 regarding PAFSA and USDE

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						criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies Next re-recognition: 2027; petition due early July 2025
Facilitate participation of state dental licensing boards on site visits, as appropriate	Log of State Board participation	Annual	Director/ Managers	QASP/ CODA	Invited state dental licensing boards to site visits.	 Ongoing 80 State boards invited to attend site visits; 2024: 74 invited to attend site visits 29 State boards participated in site visits; 2024: 31 participated in site visits
Receive and act on reports and publications on trends and changes.	Reports and publications received and evaluated.	As necessary	Director/ Managers	QASP/CODA	CODA directed Ad Hoc Committee on Predoctoral Dental Education Standards to consider diversity, special needs patients, and orofacial pain proposed revisions. 2024: Ongoing CODA directed Ad Hoc Committee review of Pediatric	 Directed further consideration and review by Review Committees or Ad Hoc Committees, as applicable. Completed 2023: CODA directed Ad Hoc Committee review of state dental associations' request for change to standards on ratios.

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Dentistry
Standards related
to sedation.
2024: Ongoing
CODA directed
Ad Hoc
Committee
review of Dental
Assisting
Program
Closures and
Discontinuance;
2024: Ongoing
CODA directed
Ad Hoc
Committee
review of Dental
Hygiene
Standards related
to faculty to
student ratios;
2024: Ongoing
CODA directed
Ad Hoc
Committee
review of
Orthodontics and
Dentofacial

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Orthopedics
Standards related
to faculty to
student/resident
ratios; 2024:
Ongoing
CODA directed
Ad Hoc
Committee on
CODA
Professional
Development;
2024: Ongoing
CODA directed
Ad Hoc
Committee on
Artificial
Intelligence;
2024: Ongoing
2024. Oligoling
2024: CODA
directed Ad Hoc
Committee to
review Report and
Recommendation
from the
American Dental
Association's

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					Dental Deans'		
					Stakeholder		
					Engagement		
					Process		
					2024: CODA		
					directed Ad Hoc		
					Committee to		
					review requests		
					for accreditation		
					in two (2) areas		
					of dentistry		
					2024: CODA		
					directed all		
					Review		
					Committees to		
					consider topic of		
					program director		
					administrative		
					oversight of		
					sites, and topic of		
					diversity and		
					humanistic		
					culture and		
					learning		
					environment		
Engage with	Log of	Annually	Director	QASP/CODA	CDAC provided	•	Ongoing monitoring
International	organizations				report to CODA	•	Completed through work of the
groups in dental	with which				during summer		Standing Committee on
and higher					2023 and		-

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education and	CODA has				summer 2024	International Accreditation or via
accreditation in	engaged				CODA meeting.	CODA staff
order to monitor						
accreditation					Engaged with	
trends.					several	
					international	
					programs	
					interested in	
					predoctoral	
					dental	
					accreditation.	
					CODA presented	
					information on	
					the international	
					and U.S. CODA	
					accreditation	
					process to the	
					California Dental	
					Board on	
					November 8,	
					2024.	
Maintain	Review and	Ongoing	Director	QASP/CODA	Maintain	• In 2024, CODA and CDAC could
reciprocal	comment on				ongoing	review reciprocal agreement based
agreement with	proposed CDAC				communication	on governance change within
Commission on	revisions;				with CDAC	CDAC, effective 2023, that it is
Dental	encourage site					now an independent legal entity
Accreditation of	visit observation					from the Canadian Dental
Canada	and meeting					Association. Carry to 2025
	attendance					CODA reviewed proposed
						revisions to CDAC Standards

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Committee on Site Visit Process and Training, effective Summer 2023. Site Visitor Training Program (June and October 2023; June 2024) • 2024: Sent email update communications to all site visito following winter and summer

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					2024: Standing Committee conducting work to support site visit evaluation and training process.	•	2024: Conducted site visitor update sessions and invited all active and appointed site visitors.
Foster ongoing monitoring of dental education programs.	Annual survey, Program change reports, Additional sites, etc.	Ongoing	Director, Managers	QASP/Review Committees/ CODA	Ongoing: Conduct and review Annual Surveys and other program changes reported (or request reporting by a program) to ensure ongoing monitoring and compliance with Standards	•	Place programs on CODA agenda when needed. CODA adopted new Guidelines for dental hygiene program enrollment increase reports. 2024: Developed and distributed a template for allied dental programs to use regarding a curriculum cross-walk 2024: 846 accreditation actions taken on dental, advanced dental, and allied dental education programs.

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Strategic Priority 2: Organizational Effectiveness

Goal	Strategy
1. The Commission has continued financial self-	1a) Develop resources to cover emergency expenses, unforeseen circumstances, strategic initiatives, and have appropriate autonomous access to these resources.
sufficiency to carry out its activities related to the Commission's business purpose and operations.	1b) Continue to establish robust and financially sustainable processes to accredit U.S. and international programs to improve dental education worldwide.
2. The Commission is efficient in managing the accreditation	2a) Review and streamline current internal and external accreditation processes to realize financial efficiencies.
processes, both internal and external.	2b) Review and refine electronic processes for submission of materials from programs.2c) Review and refine electronic processes for material review by Review Committees and the Commission.
3. The Commission's human and operational resource capacity reflects the skill sets needed to support its strategic and operational needs.	3a) Review and build human (staff and volunteer) and operational resource capacity to meet the current and future demands of the Commission.
4. The Commission's structure meets the changing environment of dental education and practice.	 4a) Initiate and lead the discussion with communities of interest to evaluate the structure of the Commission with regard to representation from the communities of interest (for example, organize a summit). 4b) Continually evaluate committee structures.
	4c) Monitor the dental education environment for changes that may affect the Commission's structure.

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Monitoring Mechanism	Evaluation Mechanism	When Evaluated	Who Collects Data	Who Assesses Data	Results	Resulting Action
Ensure ongoing financial stability of CODA	Establish and monitor CODA short- and long-term financial planning	Ongoing	Director/ Managers	Finance/ QASP/ CODA	CODA finances are stable (at this time)	 In progress - CODA consultation with a finance expert to assist in long-term financial planning and budget preparation. 2024: Study completed in spring 2024 and CODA finances (at that time) found to be stable and adequate. CODA signed shared services agreement with ADA September 2022, expires January 1, 2025; agreement expired 2024: CODA received the Report and Recommendation from the American Dental Association's Dental Deans' Stakeholder Engagement Process. CODA directed an Ad Hoc Committee study this report. Updates to occur in 2025.
Engage with ADA to complete Bylaws changes in support of CODA governance and financial autonomy	Assess activity of ADA/CODA Relationship Workgroup and submit Resolutions to ADA House	Annually	Director	QASP/CODA	CODA and ADA signed Intercompany Memorandum of Understanding and Services Agreement in September 2022	 Financial autonomy still under discussion In progress - CODA consultation with a finance expert to assist in long-term financial planning and budget preparation. 2024: Study completed in spring 2024 and CODA finances (at that time) found to be stable and adequate.

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Develop and distribute site visitor training materials within specified timeframes	Number of site visitors trained annually, completion of training program	Annual	Director/ Managers	QASP/ CODA	455 site visitors trained in 2023 137 site visitors trained in 2024 Staff developed a streamlined annual paperwork submission process. Staff provided training and continues to	 2025 – CODA and ADA should review Services Agreement, which will expire January 1, 2025 2024: CODA received the Report and Recommendation from the American Dental Association's Dental Deans' Stakeholder Engagement Process. CODA directed an Ad Hoc Committee study this report. Updates to occur in 2025. Site Visitor Training Program (June and October 2023; June 2024) Summer 2023 - CODA established the Standing Committee on Site Visit Process and Training CODA will continue to enhance training materials and methods to ensure reviewers are prepared to perform program evaluations. 2024: Predoctoral Chair Training, Fall 2024, with additional sessions planned in 2025 2024: Chair Trainings for Allied and Advanced

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Continue the	Number of site	Annual	Director/	QASP/	See above	See above
development of online and web- based training materials	visitors trained annually, completion of training program		Managers	CODA		 Exploring training options via new E-accreditation portal In November 2024, CODA hired the new position Manager, Training and Assessment, which will ensure ongoing communication and training strategies for the Commission. 2024: Exploring a new Learning Management System to enhance online training.
Encourage use of information technologies that reduce administrative costs to the CODA and sponsoring institutions.	Monitor and log technology advancements to enhance effectiveness of CODA business processes	Periodically	Director/ Managers	ComTech/ QASP/ CODA	Finalized contract with vendor for new E-Accreditation Portal. Work to be completed in 2024. Developed electronic submission process for site visitor, Review Committee, CODA member, and Appeal Board annual paperwork.	 E-Portal (new E-accreditation portal in beginning stages of development) and site to be completed in 2025 2024: ongoing

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Ongoing review of human and resource capital to proactively identify and address future demands.	Monitor and act upon CODA staff and resource needs to address future demands	Periodically	Director	QASP/Finance/CODA	2024: CODA is in the process of building out the new e-accreditation system, which will improve CODA's electronic communication through the system to both programs and CODA volunteers, and other communities of interest. CODA staffing returning to full capacity. Modified CODA staffing roles and hired two (2) of three (3) CODA-approved staff positions in 2023.	•	CODA will hire one (1) additional full-time staff in 2024, approved by CODA in Summer 2023. 2024: Completed 2024: CODA received the Report and Recommendation from the American Dental Association's Dental Deans' Stakeholder Engagement Process. CODA directed an Ad Hoc Committee study this report. Updates to occur in 2025.
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In 2023, CODA
approved hire of
one (1)
additional full-
time staff in
2024.
In 2024, hired
Manager,
Communication
and Data
Management,
hired new
position
Manager,
Training and
Assessment;
hired new
position Senior
Manager,
Administration
and Committees,
and Committees, and filled vacant
positions in
coordinator and
manager areas.
Currently one
open position –
Manager,
Advanced Dental
Education.

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		Human capital to be monitored related to future needs.	
		needs.	

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Strategic Priority 3: Confidence in Accreditation and the Commission's Reputation

Goal	Strategy
1. The Commission regularly	1a) Obtain a baseline for communication and messaging.
assesses its communication,	1b) Develop electronic platforms to deliver messaging across communities of interest.
messaging strategies, and	1c) Enhance communication on a regular basis from Commission staff to governmental agencies (Federal,
platforms to enhance its impact.	State and Local).
2. The Commission consistently	2a) Study the accreditation process using appropriate strategies, including engaging with an outside expert
tracks analysis and	consultant.
demonstration of the outcomes	
and impact of accreditation.	
3. The Commission effectively	3a) Conduct presentations at major professional meetings, and increase opportunities for involvement through
involves its communities of	workshops and virtual platforms.
interest in the work of the	3b) Develop webinars, informational graphics, and training materials for programs and site visitors.
Commission.	2a) Enhance communication via symphonous and asymphonous sessions
	3c) Enhance communication via synchronous and asynchronous sessions.

Monitoring	Evaluation	When	Who Collects	Who	Results	Resulting Action
Mechanism	Mechanism	Evaluated	Data	Assesses Data		
Communicate with other accrediting agencies to stay current on regulatory changes and trends	Engage with accreditors through ASPA and Chicago Area Accreditor meetings	Ongoing	Director/ Managers	QASP/ CODA	CODA director and staff attends ASPA meetings. Ongoing Director and staff attends	Continue attending ASPA and Chicago Accreditors meetings
					ASPA webinars periodically throughout the year. Ongoing	

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					Director and	
					managers attend	
					Chicago	
					Accreditors	
					meetings, as	
					available.	
		-			Ongoing	
Routinely	Publish and	Semi-	Director/	QASP/CODA	Following each	 Ongoing
distribute	distribute	annual	Managers		CODA meeting,	
current	accreditation				within 7 days	
accreditation	status within 30				the Summary of	
status	days of				Major Actions	
information to	Commission				has been	
communities of	meeting.				distributed.	
interest.						
					Accreditation	
					Status	
					information	
					distributed	
					within 30 days	
					and more	
					frequently as	
					required by	
					CODA policy.	
					Notify USDE,	
					per regulations	
					for recognized	
					accreditors.	

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					Provided countless verification of accreditation for programs to		
					interested		
					parties (state		
					agencies, credentialing		
					organizations,		
					etc.)		
Update the CODA website within 30 days of the Commission meeting	Report on completion of update and number of website visits	Semi- annual	Director/ Managers	QASP/CODA	Accreditation Status information distributed within 30 days and more frequently as required by CODA policy	•	Ongoing
Create a comprehensive communication plan that supports timely and accurate communication with all CODA communities of interest	Log communication activities that support timely and accurate information sharing with communities of interest	Periodically	Director/ Managers	ComTech/ QASP/ CODA	Communication Survey sent to communities of interest. Data reviewed by Standing Committee. Communication Plan to be reviewed by	•	Communication study distributed in Fall 2023 per CODA directive, with report to CODA expected in Winter 2024. 2024: CODA adopted the 2024-2028 Communication Plan and Strategy. Work is ongoing.

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					CODA Winter 2024. In Winter 2024, CODA adopted the 2024-2028 Communication Plan and		
					the plan. In November 2024, CODA hired the Manager, Communication and Data Management, which will ensure ongoing communication for the Commission.		
Publish newsletter, alerts, and other communication tools and maintain up-to- date web-page	Report dates of completion and distribution.	Ongoing	Director/ Managers	ComTech/ QASP/ CODA	Announcements sent on regular basis via CODA Alert Emails; 2024 Ongoing	•	Ongoing Continue to publish newsletter, news alerts and Annual Report Establish communication plan, see above

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to inform					Annual Report	
community of					published	Maintain current information on
interest					December 2023;	website
Interest					December 2024	website
					December 2024	
					CODA	
					Communicator	
					Newsletter put	
					on hold in 2023	
					and 2024 due to	
					various	
					competing	
					priorities;	
					however,	
					information was	
					disseminated	
					using other	
					mechanisms.	
Engage with	Report dates and	Ongoing	Director/	QASP/CODA	Presentations in	 Ongoing
other	type of activity	and as	Managers		2023:	
organizations		requested				
within CODA's					NADL	
community of					Educator's	
interest to					Conference	
provide current					(March 2023,	
information					May 2024)	
about CODA						
and foster					ADEA Allied	
relationships					Dental Program	
					Director's	
					Meeting (June	

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2023, June
2024)
Special Care
Dentistry
Association
Director's
Meeting (April
2023, December
2024)
HRSA Annual
Grantees
Meeting (May
and September
2023)
2023)
AADOCR
Meeting
(October 2023)
(October 2023)
Presentation to
Canadian
Dental
Associations of
Chief Executive
Officers, Dental
Regulatory
Bodies,
Examination
Bodies, and

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Insurance
Services
(December
2023)
CODA
presented
information on
the international
and U.S. CODA
accreditation
process to the
California
Dental Board on
November 8,
2024.
CODA Senior
Director and
Senior Manager
has conducted
several
information
exchange
sessions with
the HRSA staff
regarding
CODA
application
process and

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					HRSA funding opportunities.	
Create and administer various webinars and workshops to inform and engage with CEOs, dental deans, program directors, volunteers and other groups.	Report dates and type of activity	Ongoing and as requested	Director/ Managers	QASP/CODA	See above related to CODA sessions with outside agencies. Additional presentations: Site Visitor Update Webinar (March 2023 and April 2024; 3 sessions) Site Visit Orientation Webinar (March 2023 and April 2024; 3 sessions) NADL Educator's Conference (March 2023, May 2024)	• Ongoing

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	Program
	Director 101
	Webinar (April
	and October
	2023, March
	and April 2024)
	and April 2024)
	Q&A Webinar
	(March 2023,
	March 2024)
	ADEA AIII. 1
	ADEA Allied
	Dental Program
	Director's
	Meeting (June
	2023, June
	2024)
	ADEA Fall
	Meeting
	(October 2023)
	Hearing on
	Standards,
	spring and fall
	2023 and 2024
	2020 WING 2021
	Site Visitor
	Training
	Program (June
	and October

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2023; June
2024)
New
Commissioner,
Review
Committee and
Appeal Board
training webiner
training webinar
(December
2023; December
2024)
Special Care
Dentistry
Association
Director's
Meeting (April
2023, December
2024)
CODA
presented
information on
the international
and U.S. CODA
accreditation
process to the
California
Dental Board on

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	November 8,
	2024.
	CODA Senior
	Director and
	Senior Manager
	has conducted
	several
	information
	exchange
	sessions with
	the HRSA staff
	regarding
	CODA
	application
	process and
	HRSA funding
	opportunities.
	Engagement
	with CEOs,
	Deans,
	volunteers and
	other groups is
	ongoing.