



AAO Council on Orthodontic Practice
 Dr. Lana R. Helms

November 15, 2024

The council met on 9/18/24. Below is a summary of the meeting. Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional questions or comments.

Name of Council/Committee/Task Force: Council on Orthodontic Practice

DISCUSSION

Topic	Discussion	Action/ Follow-up
<p>Practice Management Forms update</p>	<p>Based on member requests, COOP has asked Marketing to convert all Supplemental forms to be available in Spanish. The impacted forms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplemental Informed Consent for Smile Direct Club Customers • Obstructive Sleep Apnea Informed Consent • Orthognathic Surgery Supplemental Informed Consent Form • Consent for Radiologic Services and Acknowledgement of Scope of Services • Declines Treatment Supplemental Informed Consent Form • Impacted Teeth Supplemental Informed Consent Form • Periodontal Concerns Supplemental Informed Consent Form • Orthodontic Informed Consent During Bisphosphonate Treatment for the Orthodontic Patient • Laser Treatment Informed Consent • TADs Informed Consent • TAD (Implant) Supported Expander Informed Consent • Risks and Limitations of Bonded Lingual Retainers and Consent to Utilize for Treatment <p>This list marks all the updates to forms being requested in FY25. Any new requests that are received shall be made following the FY26 COOP meeting.</p> <p>The AAO practice brochures that COOP recently took over for COC are in the proofing stage. COOP members to provide any final edits/comments by 9/27.</p> <p>The subcommittee has reviewed the initial request by several members of the need for an updated Informed Consent video. A motion was put forth:</p> <p><u>That the Informed Consent Video be updated and be made available to download.</u></p>	<p>Staff to implement</p>

	<p>On vote: Approved</p>	
<p>Practice Transition</p>	<p>The subcommittee launched a Micro-Volunteer Project in FY24, but it was delayed due to lack of volunteers. The subcommittee met in late summer and have reimagined the effort for FY25.</p> <p>Purpose: Gather insights and information from multiple sources, including incumbent orthodontists and subject matter experts, organized by transition type. Develop practical tools such as planning checklists and quick reference guides to support others through practice transitions. Identify pain points to prioritize needs for future targeted solutions.</p> <p>Next Steps: Recruit volunteers with assistance from COOP and support from other councils/BOT. For Practice Startups, Staff will share recruitment instructions, sample messages, and a link to the volunteer registration page with COOP / Councils / BOT in late October/early November.</p> <p>The advancement and success of this project is dependent on the recruitment of many micro-volunteers willing to offer their insight and experience.</p>	
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>In early September 2024, Terracycle introduced a public program called “Dental Aligners – Zero Waste,” promoting that any brand of clear, used dental aligners and flexible plastic dental aligner packaging can be recycled. They are selling the boxes on their site, with a small, medium, and large box option for purchase.</p> <p>Based on the Terracycle’s change, the subcommittee recommended, <u>That the AAO purchase 100 custom logo’d boxes from Terracycle, for the purpose of promoting clear aligner recycling by those AAO members who wish to do so.</u></p> <p><u>Funding for this project should come from the reserves that were originally allocated for establishment of a clear aligner recycling program by the House of Delegates in May 2024.</u></p> <p><u>The purchase of these custom boxes will cost \$18,000 to be paid in FY25 and shall replace the need to pay the recycling program set-up fee and the admin/data tracking fee originally requested.</u></p> <p><u>COOP retains the allocation of \$3,000 in FY25 and \$3,000 in FY26 for the purpose of launching a “Go Green” initiative and providing paper bags to those members who wish to participate.</u></p> <p><u>AAO Staff will solicit corporate sponsorships, and should a company wish to sponsor offering additional boxes to AAO members, more boxes shall be made available.</u></p> <p>On vote: Approved</p>	

Additionally, the subcommittee recommends, That the AAO Board of Trustees investigate the impact of changing the monthly distribution of the AJO-DO to be entirely digital to all AAO members and mailing printed copies to only those members who opt-in to receiving it.

On vote: Approved

In November, the BDC should report back to the BOT on their review of Terracycle and third-party vendors.

Ortho Team Staffing

The subcommittee did have a booth at the ASCA Summer '24 convention in Kansas City with local ortho staff members working the booth, based on the plan provided by the Ortho Staff Shortage Task Force when turning over work to this subcommittee.

At the booth, high school counselors were given a QR code to the AAO's online resources for Careers in Orthodontic Offices (<https://aaoinfo.org/orthodontic-staff-career/>). Following the ASCA conference, there was a slight uptick identified in visiting the webpage, but we cannot identify jobs being filled, only an increase in awareness. It is also unclear how long the impact of attending ASCA is on those school counselors.

Although the subcommittee originally supported continued involvement in the ASCA conference; after speaking with Dr. Cruz regarding his experience being involved in similar events, the subcommittee changed their recommendation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Cruz, the subcommittee would like to redirect the AAO's staff shortage efforts towards creating social media content that will reach potential ortho team members directly. The subcommittee will reconvene in late fall and invite Jenn Diebling to the next steps.

During further input from the council, it was decided that the subcommittee should also reach out to Advocacy to investigate states with underserved communities and assistance for ortho staff such as in North Dakota and determine if Advocacy could assist in creating awareness for this need in other states. It may be necessary to invite a member of the Advocacy Staff or COGA to join the upcoming meeting of the sub-committee.

AAO Staff to work with Dr. Cruz and subcommittee members to create a plan of action for creating social media content.

Webinar Program Update

The webinar subcommittee has defined topics for the FY25 webinar season and planned the below sessions.

	Speaker	Title	type of session
Thurs., Sept 12	Dr. David John De Franco	Orthodontic Approaches and Strategies in the Treatment of Interdisciplinary Patients	Doctor - Clinical
Monday, Sept. 23	Drs. Khosravi & Bobek	Strategizing for Success: Combining Digital Orthodontics and Orthognathic Surgery	Doctor - Clinical
Tuesday, Oct. 1	Shannon Patterson &	Ballot Proof Your Practice (no honorarium)	Business of Ortho

	Jake Schwyzer		
Wed., Oct. 23	Brenda Ashwell	You Deserve Some R&R! Stress-Free Success with Referrals & Reviews	Team & Doctor
Monday, Oct. 28	Dr. Jae Park	Session 1.5: Camouflage Class III Correction with TADs	Doctor - Clinical
Tuesday, Nov. 12	Diana Weaver	Keys to Unlocking Personal & Professional Success	Team & Doctor
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024	Dr. Erverdi	Distraction Osteogenesis. Exact title TBD	Doctor - scientific
Wed. Dec. 4.	Beth Leach, Tony/Penic he, Jeff/ Vision Trust	Brand Building with the TOP GURUS (Panel format)	Business of Ortho
Wed., Dec. 11	Dr. Paul Gange Jr	Bonding Techniques (title tbd)	Team & Doctor
Tuesday, January 14	Jackie Dorst	Annual OSHA Training	Team & Doctor
January TBD	Sustainability expert	TBD - Sustainability in the Ortho Office	Business of Ortho
Tuesday, February 4, 2025	Jackie Shoemaker, Tina Byrne, and Kayla Hoorelbeke	Collections, Claims, and Coding Correctly (Final title TBD)	Business of Ortho
February TBD	TBD	Cybersecurity	Business of Ortho
March - TBD	Dr. Tamimi	AI to Detect Radiographic Pathology	Doctor (Clinical)

Career Mentoring & Fair

Lauren Carr reported that CONYM recently voted to sunset the mentoring platform, AAO Connections. Member participation in AAO Connections was low, and it was not gaining any momentum throughout the program's history.

The mentoring program will be reimaged, with mentoring becoming more of an AAO culture than a one-time use website. If / when necessary, a new platform host will be sourced.

COOP members discussed the idea to be shared with CONYM of hosting a reception in conjunction with the New & Younger Member conference and inviting older orthodontists to come and network with the newer ones. Also, since CCON is offering a special program for 1st Timers at Annual Session, perhaps inviting older orthodontists to come and network with them would also be helpful.

A potential new resource could be the current job board (AAO Career Center) as it has the capability to edit the current "coaches" to be members, not professional coaches. Dr. Cruz brought up the potential to incentivize members to be coaches.

Office Design Series Maintenance	The subcommittee has identified updates for FY25 and is awaiting confirmation on the new software from AAO staff. (Previous video vendor closed 9/6/24.)	AAO Staff investigating new software option
Ortho Staff Appreciation	Ortho Staff Appreciation Day is Wednesday, June 4, 2025.	
Chair Appointment	Dr. Lana Helms accepted the request by the entire council to continue as the COOP Chair in FY26.	
Next Meeting	The next in-person COOP meeting will be November 8, 2025. COOP members will arrive in St. Louis on Friday late afternoon, November 7, and meeting on the 8 th .	

Respectfully submitted,

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