

Michigan Dental Association

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 24, 2020

Zoom Videoconference

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2
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6 **OFFICERS**

- Dr. Margaret Gingrich, President
- Dr. Stephen Meraw, President-Elect
- Dr. Debra Peters, Immediate Past President
- Dr. Christopher Smiley, Editor
- Dr. Clayton Shunk, Secretary/Treasurer
- Dr. Todd Christy, Speaker
- Karen Burgess, MBA, CAE, CEO/Executive Director

TRUSTEES

- Dr. Vincent Benivegna
- Dr. Jonathan Berns
- Dr. Christopher Gorecki
- Dr. Rhonda Hennessy
- Dr. Lisa Knowles
- Dr. Eric Knudsen
- Dr. Vincent Lizzio
- Dr. Michael Maihofer
- Dr. William Patchak

LEGAL COUNSEL

Dan Schulte

7
8 **STAFF**

- 9 Jenny Armistead, MDA Director of Marketing and Communications
- 10 David Foe, MDA Director of Print and e-Publications
- 11 Angie Kanazeh, Director of Membership
- 12 Nancy Maier, MBA, MDA Foundation Executive Director
- 13 Michelle Nichols-Cruz, Governance Manager
- 14 Bill Sullivan, JD, Vice President/Advocacy and Professional Relations
- 15 Andrea Sundermann, CAE, Director of Continuing Education

16
17 **CALL TO ORDER**

18 The meeting was called to order by President Gingrich at 7:03 pm.

19
20 **REVISION OF MDA RECOMMENDATION**

21 On March 16, the MDA approved a resolution strongly recommending that Michigan dentists
22 limit treatment to necessary treatment and emergency care for at least two weeks. Later that
23 day, the ADA communicated the ADA Board of Trustees’ recommendation for three weeks.
24 Then, on March 20, Gov. Whitmer issued an executive order that required dental facilities to
25 temporarily postpone all non-essential procedures until the termination of the state of
26 emergency that had been declared on March 10.

27
28 The Board discussed whether to maintain its current policy or support the governor’s
29 recommendation. Recognizing that any policy that specified a particular date may need
30 multiple updates depending on the situation, and that it would be clearer for Michigan dentists
31 if policies were in alignment, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to support the
32 temporary postponement of all non-essential dental procedures until the state of emergency is

33 no longer in effect.

34

35 A question was raised as to whether the MDA would have advance notice when the order is
36 dismissed to allow members the opportunity to get their equipment up and running. Up until
37 now, MDA has only received a few minutes' notice before an order is issued.

38

39 The state of emergency is limited to 28 days. The Governor would require approval from the
40 legislature to extend the state of emergency.

41

42 The following was unanimously adopted:

43

44 **1-320** Resolved, that the MDA supports the temporary postponement of **Adopted**
45 all non-essential dental procedures until the state of emergency
46 outlined in Section 3 of Executive Order 2020-4 is no longer in effect.

47

48 **MISSION OF MERCY UPDATE**

49 The Michigan Dental Association Foundation has been actively monitoring the outbreak of
50 illness caused by a new coronavirus (COVID-19). The Foundation reports that out of abundance
51 of caution for patients and volunteers, the May 28 - 31, 2020 Michigan Mission of Mercy
52 program will be postponed. A new date has not yet been set.

53

54 The Foundation received a directive from the Genesee County Health Department not to hold
55 the MOM on the planned dates.

56

57 The Foundation, in partnership with the Michigan Association of Health and Hospitals, will be
58 donating PPE that would have been used for the MOM. Those that donated the supplies to
59 MOM were contacted and approved the donation of the materials.

60

61 **ANNUAL SESSION/LEADERSHIP FORUM CONTINENGCY PLAN**

62 The MDA Board postponed the MDA Annual Session until September 2-4, 2020. It is
63 anticipated that most speakers, including Dr. Frank Spear, as well as exhibitors will be able to
64 change to the new dates. Related social events and meetings may also be transitioned.

65

66 Assuming the state of emergency is over by September the MDA plans to be whole financially.
67 The MDA will negotiate new contracts with the Amway and DeVos Place and take into
68 consideration the possibility of having to cancel and/or postpone if the state of emergency is
69 still in place. It is doubtful that all penalties would be removed but it is likely that lesser
70 penalties can be negotiated.

71

72 The following was unanimously adopted:

73

74 **1-320** Resolved, that the MDA Annual Session be postponed until **Adopted**
75 September 2-4, 2020, and be it further

76
77 Resolved, that the MDA Leadership Forum be postponed
78 until an appropriate future date approved by the Executive
79 Committee.
80

81 **HOD CONTINGENCY PLAN**

82 With the postponement of the Annual Session, there is a need to address the House of
83 Delegates. Speaker Christy is planning for a Virtual House of Delegates on Saturday/Sunday
84 May 16-17, 2020. This would allow the offices to see patients during the week and do the work
85 of the House on the weekend.
86

87 The Open Forum on Component Workgroup Report would be held as a separate Zoom prior to
88 the House of Delegates meeting. The following would be recorded and made available on the
89 MDA HOD web page prior to the meeting:
90

- 91 • MDA President’s Address: Dr. Margaret Gingrich, President
- 92 • Report from MDA Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Clayton Shunk
- 93 • Report from the MDA Executive Director: Ms. Karen Burgess, MBA, CAE
- 94 • Report from ADA President-Elect: Dr. Daniel Klemmedson
- 95 • "Memorium": Dr. Debra Peters, Immediate Past President
- 96 • ADA Delegation Candidate Videos
- 97 • Report of the ADA Ninth District Trustee: Dr. Julio Rodriguez
- 98 • Michigan Dental Association Foundation: Dr. Norman Palm, President
- 99 • MDA Insurance & Financial Group: Dale Nester, DDS, Chair
- 100 • Dental PAC of Michigan: Dr. James Cantwil, Chair

101
102 The virtual meetings would go from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the first day and from 8:30 a.m.
103 to about noon on the second day.
104

105 Whether the MDA Board will meet following the HOD meeting as in the past will be discussed
106 at a later date.
107

108 **SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

109 Members have recognized that dentistry is in a good position to help support the broader
110 healthcare system. In response to the shortage of masks and other personal protective
111 equipment (PPE), a member recommended a voluntary donation program. The MDA worked
112 collaboratively to set this up with the Michigan Health and Hospital Association. Dentists who
113 donate are asked to let the MDA know by emailing donatedPPE@michigandental.org.
114

115 Subsequently, MDA has received several calls from members pointing out that dentists are
116 well-equipped to help fill the gap in triage or elsewhere if the healthcare system becomes
117 overwhelmed or if there is a lack of qualified healthcare providers due to spread of the virus or
118 quarantine of physicians, nurses, and other front-line healthcare providers.

162 *Guidelines about Essential vs. Non-essential Care:* Dr. Gingrich convened a small workgroup to
163 enable the MDA to give guidance to dentists about this topic. The workgroup reviewed the
164 ADA communication in this regard and made a few edits where it was felt to be necessary. This
165 was included in the communication to the members on Friday, March 20.

166
167 *Information about Programs for Financial Relief:* The MDA has received numerous questions
168 from members regarding what state and federal programs are available to them for financial
169 relief. This information was collected in one document, which also addressed pending
170 initiatives that may benefit dentists if approved. This was also highlighted in the March 20
171 communication.

172
173 *MDA Health Plan:* The MDA Health Plan Board approved two actions to help members and
174 their dental teams. First, there will be a 50% contribution reduction for April 2020 statements.
175 Second, the Board approved an amendment to the plan to allow staff placed on temporary
176 leave to maintain their health insurance while on leave. The MDA Health Plan also provided
177 members with information about how to make sure any employees who are terminated have
178 the greatest chance to find new coverage.

179
180 *Non-Compliance with Executive Order:* MDA is receiving calls asking how to report dentists that
181 are not following the Executive Order to treat emergency patients only. The Governor's office
182 has stated that non-compliance issues should be forwarded to LARA and the Attorney General's
183 office. The Board is aware that state offices are not currently open and rather than reporting all
184 cases immediately, it believes that the component dental society should be contacted first to
185 determine whether non-compliance is actually occurring and reminding the dentist of the
186 Executive Order. For all calls that have been received to date, contact with the dentist has
187 resolved the issue.

188
189 *Dentist/Dental Team Need for Well-Being Support:* This situation is very stressful for dentists
190 and dental teams. The MDA will provide information on the website, and staff have reached
191 out to the ADA to work collaboratively with the state societies on this topic.

192
193 *Referrals for Emergencies:* Currently there is anecdotal information that specialists, such as
194 endodontists and oral surgeons, are making arrangements to offer emergency care referred
195 from their colleagues. Special protective arrangements have been implemented to reduce risk
196 for all, such as doing the intake in the parking lot, bringing patients in one at a time and
197 ensuring adequate distancing in the office waiting area, using the highest level of protective
198 gear, etc. In order to make sure that members know who is taking referrals in their area, it is
199 anticipated that local dental societies may develop a list of dentists willing to receive referrals
200 from their colleagues for emergency care and provide this information if needed.

201
202 *Component Support:* The component societies are fielding many questions from members, and
203 have been in regular communication with the MDA. In order to share information and help
204 them offer guidance to members at the local level, a Zoom meeting has been scheduled for the

205 component leadership on Wednesday, March 25. Dr. Gingrich will participate as well as MDA
206 staff.

207
208 *New Dentists:* The MDA is developing a communication to specifically assist new dentists during
209 this time.

210
211 *Membership Dues Payments:* Most MDA members have already paid their dues, and there are
212 just under 1,000 people who still owe dues, either because they are on an installment payment
213 program or because they have not yet renewed. The MDA will communicate with those on an
214 installment program and ask them if they would like to re-schedule their final payment from
215 April 15 to any month between May and September. For those who have not renewed for
216 2020, the MDA will offer a payment program for installment payments between April and
217 September.

218
219 *Insurance:* The Board was informed that Delta Dental in Washington and Iowa have created
220 plans to assist their participants. MDA is looking into whether Michigan Delta plans to do
221 something similar. In addition, it was noted that Delta Dental has loosened its rules with
222 teledentistry and will reimburse D010 codes. Blue Cross is working on reimbursement for
223 teledentistry and MDA is waiting to hear its decision.

224
225 *Continuing Education:* The MDA is aware that House Republicans have requested an Executive
226 Order to suspend CE requirements for licensed health professionals.

227

228 **OPEN DISCUSSION**

229 *Annual Session*

230 A request was made not to make announcements about the postponement of the Annual
231 Session until the MDA notifies the membership.

232

233 *CE Requirements*

234 Michigan House Republicans have asked for an Executive Order to suspend CE requirements for
235 licensed health professionals.

236

237 *CDC Webinar*

238 The CDC will hold a webinar on March 25 at 2pm providing a COVID-19 update and optimization
239 strategies for healthcare person protective equipment. New information will also be coming
240 soon from the ADA on clinical guidance and safety.

241

242 *MDA Bylaws Requirement for Special Board Meetings*

243 The MDA is aware that a component dental society considered proposing an amendment to the
244 MDA Bylaws that would allow the MDA Board to schedule emergency meetings without the a
245 10-day notice requirement. Legal counsel informed the Board that this requirement is in the
246 Non Profit Corporation Act and the Bylaws cannot supersede the law. The Executive Committee

247 has the authority to set interim policy for these types of situations, and the President may also
248 wish to set meeting dates for future meetings that could be canceled if not needed.

249

250 **NEW BUSINESS**

251 There was no new business.

252

253 **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by President Gingrich at 8:57 pm.

254

255

256

257 Margaret Gingrich, DDS

Clayton Shunk, DDS

258 President

Secretary/Treasurer