

1 Michigan Dental Association

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3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

4 January 22, 2021

5 Zoom Videoconference

6  
7 **Attendance**

8  
9 **Present**

10 Dr. Stephen Meraw, President

11 Dr. Michael Maihofer, President-Elect

12 Dr. Margaret Gingrich, Immediate Past President

13 Dr. Eric Knudsen, Secretary/Treasurer

14 Dr. Christopher Smiley, Editor

15 Dr. Todd Christy, Speaker

16 Karen Burgess, MBA, CAE, Executive Director

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18 **Legal Counsel**

19 Mr. Dan Schulte

20  
21 **MDA Staff**

22 Michelle Nichols-Cruz, Governance Manager

23 Bill Sullivan, Vice President of Advocacy and Professional Relations

24  
25 **CALL TO ORDER**

26 The meeting was called to order by President Meraw at 1:03 p.m.

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28 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

29 No conflicts were noted.

30  
31 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

32 The EC went into Executive Session at 1:05 pm to address topics where individuals were  
33 discussed.

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35 A review of the post-ADA House of Delegates survey resulted in an EC recommendation that  
36 next year's chair consider an orientation for new delegates and alternate delegates.

37  
38 The EC came out of Executive Session at 1:40 pm.

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40 **MDA & MDAIFG DIRECTOR AND OFFICER LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE**

41 Annually, the Executive Committee reviews the Directors and Officers, Employment Practices,  
42 and Fiduciary Liability insurance coverage.

44 MDA switched carriers to Cincinnati for D & O, EPLI and Fiduciary Liability insurance in January  
45 of 2019. That policy offered a 3-year term that automatically renews with the annual payment.  
46 This policy covers the MDA and all its subsidiaries. The limits as well as the premium remain the  
47 same as last year.

48

49 MDA will be providing information to components on liquor liability policies as MDA's insurance  
50 provider will no longer be offering this service to the components. MDA will provide  
51 components with recommendations on where they can get a liquor liability policy when  
52 needed. This will be discussed at the next component relations meeting.

53

#### 54 **POLICY ON COVID-19 VACCINATION**

55 In discussion of this issue, it became clear that it is challenging for the MDA to advocate  
56 for dental professionals to be vaccinated in absence of a policy. There is sound science in  
57 favor of the vaccine, and objections to the vaccine are often related to myths propagated  
58 through social media. It was noted that there are compelling medical reasons why some  
59 people should not be vaccinated.

60

61 The EC discussed whether religious beliefs should be included as a reason for not receiving the  
62 vaccine. Legal counsel stated that sincerely held religious beliefs are determined on a case-by-  
63 case basis by each dental practice. For dental team members that choose not to get vaccinated,  
64 the dental office can require them to continue to wear enhanced PPE.

65

66 In order to provide guidance to dentists and dental team members, and to set an appropriate  
67 example for the patients and the public, it would be helpful to have a policy in favor of  
68 vaccination against COVID-19 for dental professionals. This topic was brought before the EC  
69 for consideration of interim policy, rather than through CGIA and then the February Board of  
70 Trustees meeting, as timing is an issue, as the vaccination process is well underway.

71

72 After discussion, the following was adopted and will be forwarded to the Board for  
73 approval at its February meeting for ratification:

74

75 **1EC-121** Resolved, that in the interests of the health and safety of **Adopted**  
76 the individual, the dental team, the patient and the public at  
77 large, the MDA urges all dental professionals to be vaccinated  
78 against COVID-19 unless there is a compelling medical reason  
79 not to do so.

80

#### 81 **EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW DENTISTS TO ADMINISTER THE COVID-19** 82 **VACCINE**

83 The MDA has been made aware through the Michigan Department of Health and Human  
84 Services that there is the potential for an emergency authorization to allow dentists,  
85 among other health care professionals, to administer the Covid-19 vaccine.

86

87 While CGIA plans to discuss introducing a bill to change the scope of practice to allow  
88 dentists to administer vaccines in general, due to the time-sensitive nature of  
89 administering the Covid-19 vaccine, the EC is addressing this as interim policy.

90  
91 In the discussion, it was noted that while dentists don't have the storage  
92 capacity/requirements to store the vaccine, they could go to vaccine sites and help  
93 administer the vaccines. If allowed through emergency authorization, it would be done on  
94 a voluntary basis. Dentists are essential health care workers that provide injections every  
95 day, have donated PPE to take the burden off the hospitals and are trained in handling  
96 medical emergencies.

97  
98 The following was adopted and will be forwarded to the Board for ratification at its  
99 February meeting:

100

101 **2EC-121**      Resolved, that the Michigan Dental Association encourage                      **Adopted**  
102                      the governor to allow dentists to serve in the delivery model  
103                      of the COVID19 vaccine to the residents of the State of  
104                      Michigan.

105

106 **NOM COM UPDATE**

107 Dr. Margaret Gingrich, chair of the Nominating Committee, informed the EC that the slate  
108 of candidates was released today. For trustee there were more candidates than positions  
109 available. There was one ADA Delegation candidate that decided to withdraw due to time  
110 commitment. It will be stressed to future Nom Coms to make sure that potential  
111 candidates are clear on the time commitment.

112

113 If Dr. Benivegna is elected as president-elect there will be a one-year trustee term  
114 available. All candidates for a 3-year trustee term have agreed to be moved to the ballot  
115 for a one-year term if not elected to a 3-year term.

116

117 **COMMITTEE AND LEAD PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS**

118 The Board of Trustees passed the following resolution at its December 2020 meeting:

119

<p>120 <u>Resolution 19-1220</u> 121 <u>Resolved</u>, that the MDA Board of Trustees seek to increase volunteer participation of all 122 underrepresented segments of the membership in MDA committees and the LEAD 123 program.</p>
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124

125 The EC was provided with demographic information for the proposed 2021-2022 committees  
126 and the current LEAD program.

127

128 This information provides a baseline of more granular information as the Board and EC work to  
129 increase diversity, ethnicity and inclusion on MDA committees and in the LEAD program. Only

130 regular standing committees were included as the MDA has limited approval of peer review  
131 specialty committees. Those appointments are recommended by the specialty societies. Board  
132 committees are also not included as the majority of those positions are automatic pending  
133 election by the House of Delegates. Additionally, student positions are not included as those  
134 recommendations have not yet been submitted by the dental schools.

135  
136 This information identified potential opportunities. Many committees lack occupations  
137 other than private practice and some have minimal non-white representation. The EC  
138 noted that while some committees have diverse representation, this level of specific  
139 analysis will be helpful in enhancing the process going forward.

140  
141 **2021 BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT**

142 As part of the annual evaluation process, Board members complete an online evaluation that  
143 evaluates the Board as a whole. In addition, Board members complete an individual self-  
144 evaluation that provides information on their activities throughout the year and three broad-  
145 ranging questions.

146  
147 It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to develop question of significance for the  
148 individual board self-evaluations. The following questions for 2021 were approved by the Nom  
149 Com:

- 150
- 151 1. Covid-19 has led to a change in the way dentistry can be practiced. How do you balance  
152 your responsibility to the organization and its members with your responsibility to the  
153 public?  
154
  - 155 2. Please share how you actively promote MDA vision and mission within the dental  
156 community.  
157
  - 158 3. How has the board and, you personally, been able to enhance the relationship between the  
159 Board of Trustees and the House of Delegates/local components? Are there any ideas you  
160 have for the future?

161  
162 **SCOPE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

163 The Board of Trustees annually reviews the committee scopes to set annual charges for each  
164 committee to make sure committees are actively moving forward with their work and staying  
165 within the strategic plan.

166  
167 The EC recommended two new proposed duties and two proposed charges:

168  
169 *Duties*

- 170 • To consult with the chair of MDA Insurance and Financial Group, if necessary, to provide  
171 guidance on potential MDAIFG trustees.

- 172 • To oversee and provide guidance as necessary for the Component Relations Program.  
173

174 *Charges*

- 175 • To evaluate the integration of the Leadership Forum track into the 2021 Annual Session and  
176 decide whether the Forum should be a separate meeting in 2022.  
177 • To monitor and provide volunteer guidance for the implementation of the Component  
178 Relations Program.  
179

180 **MICHIGAN ORAL HEALTH COALITION (MOHC) DUES**

181 The Executive Director sought advice from the EC regarding the level of dues for the  
182 Michigan Oral Health Coalition. The MOHC has made changes to its membership dues  
183 structure. MDA has typically donated at the highest level of \$5,000/year. With the new  
184 structure, the highest level is \$10,000 which includes benefits such as more free  
185 registrations at the annual conference, a larger ad in the conference book, reserved  
186 seating, etc. The \$5,000 level is no longer available, although there is a \$6,000 level.  
187

188 When comparing the benefits of the two levels, the EC was informed that the higher level  
189 provides more free registrations to MOHC conferences and a larger public presence in the  
190 organization.  
191

192 The EC wants to continue to be a part of the MOHC but does not believe that this is the  
193 year financially to spend an additional \$4,000. The advice was to pay dues at the \$6,000  
194 level with the potential for re-evaluating it next year.  
195

196 **OFFICER REPORTS**

197 *ADA President Presentation at 2021 HOD Meeting:* Dr. Klemmedson will present at the 2021  
198 House of Delegates meeting. As Dr. Rodriguez will also be presenting, they will be asked to  
199 coordinate their presentations so they don't overlap.  
200

201 *House Appointments/Training:* Speaker Christy informed the EC that all House appointments  
202 have been made. The Election Commission will meet week, candidate videos will be recorded in  
203 February, the Bylaws Language Review Committee will meet in late February, and the  
204 Committee on Credentials, Rules and Order and reference committee will meet in March.  
205

206 Several training programs have been scheduled for the House of Delegates:  
207

- 208 • Orientation for new delegates/alternates on January 25,  
209 • House orientation on March 23  
210 • Open Forum on Bylaws Changes on March 29.  
211 • Lumi training the first week of April which will be recorded for training purposes.  
212

213 *Officer Stipends:* In 2020, the MDA officers agreed to forego their honorariums to assist the  
214 MDA financially. It appears the MDA is in a better financial position than expected and the MDA  
215 will be applying for a forgivable PPP loan. For these reasons, the Executive Committee had no  
216 objection to Ms. Burgess' plan to reinstate the 2020 honoraria.

217 *Staffing:* While the bookkeeper positions has now been filled, the Finance Manager has  
218 resigned as her husband accepted a position out of state.

219  
220 *New Emergency Health Order:* According to the new emergency health order, restaurants are  
221 able to open on February 1 at 25% capacity and must close at 10pm.

222  
223 *Covid-19 Vaccine:* MDA is receiving calls from members in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne  
224 counties wanting to know why the vaccine administration has been opened up to 65 years and  
225 older when all dentists have not yet been vaccinated. The MDA is aware that the administration  
226 of the vaccines is up to each local health department and that it is expected that administration  
227 may overlap groups. Members are encouraged to sign up for the vaccine with the local health  
228 department.

229

230 **ADJOURNMENT**

231 The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 pm.

232

233

234 Stephen Meraw, DDS, MS  
235 President

Eric Knudsen, DDS  
Secretary/Treasurer