

1 Michigan Dental Association

2
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

17
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.

27
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.

34
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.

39
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

Resolution 19-1220
Resolved, that the MDA Board of Trustees seek to increase volunteer participation of all
underrepresented segments of the membership in MDA committees and the LEAD
program.

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