

1 Michigan Dental Association
2 **Minutes of the Committee on Peer Review/Ethics**
3 January 22, 2021 9:00 a.m., Via Zoom Conference
4

5 **Present**

5 **Absent**

6
7 Dr. Seth Griffin, chair
8 Dr. Jeffrey Dulude, member
9 Dr. Marnie Grant, member
10 Dr. Mark Hostetler, member
11 Dr. James Karam, member
12 Dr. Cate Nelson, member
13 Dr. Bonnie Patel, member
14 Dr. Debra Peters, member
15 Dr. Denise Polk, member
16 Dr. Paul Renke, member
17 Dr. Michael Maihofer, MDA board liaison
18

Ms. Kristin Doxen, UDM student consultant
Ms. Kate LaTendresse, UM student consultant

19 **Guests Present**

20 none
21

22 **Staff Present**

23 Ginger Fernandez, RDH, professional review and practice management manager
24 Chris Wilson, RDA, professional review & practice management specialist
25

26 **Call to Order and Welcome**

27 Dr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
28

29 **Executive Session**

30 The committee went into executive session at 10:50 a.m. so that names of individuals could be discussed.
31 The committee came out of executive session at approximately 10:58 a.m.
32

33 **Open Session**

34 **Discussion Regarding the LARA Website-How to Verify a License**

35 Staff gave a tutorial on how to verify a license and look up disciplinary actions on the LARA website. The
36 committee said the tutorial was helpful and the information easy to find.
37

38 **Discussion Regarding the State of MI Definitions of Suspended, Summary Suspension, Limited Licenses &**
39 **Probation**

40 Staff gave an overview on the State of Michigan's definitions of Suspended, Summary Suspension, Limited
41 Licenses, and Probation. Dentists may practice if on probation, but cannot practice if their license is suspended
42 or they have a summary suspension.
43

44 **Update on New ADA Addition to Code of Ethics-Code of Conduct**

45 Dr. Griffin gave an update on the new ADA addition to the *Code of Ethics*. It provides guidance to the ethical
46 obligations during a public health crisis. Staff informed the committee they received complaint calls from
47 patients, employees of dental offices; and dentists that offices were fully open and not following the executive

48 order. To deal with these complaints, peer review staff was directed to contact the Executive Director or the
49 President of the component to inform them of the complaint and encourage them to call the dentist and remind
50 them of the executive order. Dr. Cate Nelson said she was asked to call a dentist in her component. She was
51 informed the dentist she spoke with continued doing non-emergency treatment. She suggested that in addition to
52 the phone call a letter should be sent as well. The committee discussed how these complaints should be
53 addressed in the future **if we have another governmental shut down** and recommended the following: 1) The
54 Executive Director or President of the component will call the dentist under complaint informing them of the
55 **alleged** violation; 2) MDA staff will send a letter to the dentist. **This letter is be written in a means to be**
56 **encouraging them to follow whatever the current guidelines area and remind them of those guidelines;** 3) If the
57 dentist continues to violate the executive order then the complaint will move to a **formal complaint with** the
58 dental care committee and, if needed, will be forwarded to the ethics committee. The committee would like a
59 flow chart of the process and directed staff to add the new procedure and flow chart to the committee's manual.
60 Staff informed the committee that once a final draft is approved by the committee it will be sent to the MDA
61 Board for approval. **If violations regarding COVID safety precautions and it is not an emergency/governmental**
62 **shut down situation, then it would go through the normal peer review process. The purpose of this discussion**
63 **was to be prepared for if there is another governmental shut down in the future to help provide some protocol for**
64 **this type situation.**

65
66 *Discussion Regarding 2020 Annual Session Ethics & Dental Care Workshop*
67 Staff informed the committee that the MDA Board will make its final decision regarding whether Annual
68 Session will be held virtually or in person at their February meeting. The committee decided on having a virtual
69 ethics workshop separate from Annual Session and the Dental Care committee. They believe having a
70 workshop in the evening would allow for more ethics component committee members to attend. They agreed to
71 keep the same topics and presenters as previously discussed. The committee approved to have the virtual
72 workshop on Wednesday May 12, 2021 from 7-9pm.

73
74 **Adjournment**

75 There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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77 ckw

78 r:\ethics\reports\minutes\2021\january