

1 Michigan Dental Association

2  
3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

4 May 17, 2021

5 Zoom Videoconference

6  
7 **Attendance**

8  
9 **Present**

10 Dr. Michael Maihofer, President

11 Dr. Vincent Benivegna, President-Elect

12 Dr. Stephen Meraw, Immediate Past President

13 Dr. Christopher Smiley, Editor

14 Dr. Eric Knudsen, Secretary/Treasurer

15 Dr. Todd Christy, Speaker

16 Bill Sullivan, Acting Executive Director

17  
18 **Legal Counsel**

19 Dan Schulte

20  
21 **MDA Staff**

22 Josh Kluzak, Government/Insurance Affairs Manager

23 Michelle Nichols-Cruz, Governance Manager

24  
25 **CALL TO ORDER**

26 The meeting was called to order by President Maihofer at 7:00 p.m.

27  
28 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

29 No conflicts were noted.

30  
31 **MIOSHA EMERGENCY RULES**

32 The Whitmer administration is proposing that the current MIOSHA emergency rules be  
33 made permanent, and the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) has  
34 submitted proposed rules that would accomplish that objective. The emergency rules  
35 expire in October 2021.

36  
37 The administrative rules process requires that a hearing be scheduled to receive public  
38 comment and the hearing has been scheduled for May 26 at 9am. Due to the time sensitive  
39 nature of this topic, the EC met to discuss submitting written comments regarding the proposed  
40 rule.

41  
42 The EC expressed concern that the Q&A does not address economic impact, impact on  
43 employees or the economic impact of health professionals that were supplemented by

Minutes of the Executive Committee

May 17, 2021

Page 1

44 PPE money. It is also aware that there were no health professions involved in the writing  
45 of the emergency rules.

46

47 With the evolving nature of all COVID guidance and level of confusion among the  
48 profession and public, the EC does not support making the rules permanent at this point.  
49 The EC agreed that President Maihofer will approve the letter before submitting to the  
50 department.

51

52 The hearing will be held via Zoom and staff will provide the notice to the EC for those that  
53 wish to attend the hearing.

54

55 **SENATE BILL 404: ACCOMPANYING A MINOR**

56 Senator Lana Theis (R-Brighton) has requested the MDA's input on Senate Bill 404. This bill  
57 would prohibit medical facilities, including dental offices, from implementing a policy that  
58 prohibits at least one parent or guardian from accompanying a minor or an adult with  
59 disabilities throughout the course of a medical or dental treatment. There are exceptions  
60 outlined in the bill.

61

62 This issue came up during the pandemic when Senator Theis received a complaint from a  
63 constituent who was prohibited by a dental office from accompanying their child during dental  
64 treatment.

65

66 The Michigan State Medical Society is opposed to the bill as written and is willing to work  
67 with the senator on wording for infectious disease.

68

69 MDA staff contacted a few pediatric dentists for input and they recommend that the  
70 language in the bill amended to include that the dentist may prohibit a parent/guardian  
71 from accompanying a minor or adult if the presence of the patient/guardian is hindrance  
72 to the delivery of care or safety of the patient. The MDA would be in support of the bill if  
73 this is adequately addressed. Staff will provide the EC's comments to the senator and  
74 extend an offer to meet with the senator if additional information is needed.

75

76 **ADJOURNMENT**

77 The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

78

79

80 Michael Maihofer, DDS

Eric Knudsen, DDS

81 President

Secretary/Treasurer