

1 Michigan Dental Association

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3 **Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

4 **Held via Zoom Videoconference**

5 August 17, 2021

6
7 **PRESENT**

8 Mehul Patel, DDS, Chair

9 Vincent Lizzio, DDS, Liaison

10 Jessica Rickert, DDS, Member

11 Ronald Livingston, DMD, Member

12 Daniel Miller, DDS, Member

13 Prabhjot Singh, DDS, Member

14 Tamar Shrikian, DMD, Member

15 Rita Benjamin, Student Member

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17 **STAFF**

18 Brandy Ryan, MBA, PHR, SHRM-CP, Director of Human Resources

19 Kelly Risley, MDA staff

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21 **ABSENT**

22 Tazeen Rahman, Student Member

23 Juan Rodriguez, DDS, Member

24 Kristi Thomas, DDS, Member

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26 **CALL TO ORDER**

27 The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Dr. Patel, chair.

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29 **ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEE**

30 The committee discussed creating a subcommittee to collaborate on the Diverse Dental
31 Organizations initiatives approved by the board in June. Ron Livingston, Danny Miller, and PJ
32 Singh volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

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34 **PRIORITIES**

35 The committee reviewed the list of submitted priorities and agreed to focus on the MDA
36 Journal and component leadership. The committee would like to use metrics to support their
37 initiatives and recommendations. Regarding the Journal, Dr. Patel recommended going back
38 through a couple years of the Journal to review what has been done to improve diversity in the

39 Journal and to make suggestions for future improvements. The committee discussed requesting
40 a regular column in the Journal that will be designated for DEI content. A wide range of content
41 ideas was discussed, including intentionally recognizing monthly heritages, the mentorship
42 program, and other features from diverse groups.

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44 Regarding leadership at the local level, the committee will initially focus on diversity in
45 societies. Several suggestions were made including reaching out to local societies to discuss
46 challenges, the committee members attending component meetings and new dentist meetings,
47 recruitment in the dental schools, and working with the MDA component relations coordinator
48 to communicate with components. The committee would like to work with components to help
49 them create a focus on the importance of involving all members and making a connection with
50 members on a personal level.

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52 **APPOINT VICE-CHAIR**

53 Discussed the role of the committee vice-chair. Dr. Tamar Shrikian volunteered to serve as the
54 vice-chair of the committee.

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56 **NEXT MEETING**

57 The committee plans to meet again in one month, via Zoom. A poll will be sent out to the
58 committee members with dates and times for them to select.

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60 **ADJOURNMENT**

61 The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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