

1 **Minutes of the Michigan Dental Association**  
2 **Committee on Access to Care**  
3 **Friday, September 17, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.**  
4 **via Zoom Video Conference**

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6 **Attended**

7 Curt Ralstrom, DDS, MS, chair  
8 Lauren Johnson, DDS, vice-chair  
9 Prabhjot Singh, DDS, member  
10 Deborah Brown, DMD, member  
11 Mert Aksu, DMD, member  
12 Maria Manautou, DDS, member (portion)  
13 Richard Small, JD, consultant  
14 Christine Farrell, consultant  
15 Jehan Wakeem, DDS, ADA Council liaison  
16 Jane Grover, DDS, ADA Council director, guest  
17 Christopher Gorecki, DDS, guest  
18 Emily Norrix, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, guest  
19 April Stopczynski, manager of access and prevention  
20 Neema Katibai, JD, manager of insurance and governmental affairs  
21 Karn Cornell, Donated Dental coordinator  
22 Domanique Brace, Donated Dental coordinator

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24 **Absent**

25 Michael Campeau, DDS, member  
26 Sarah Tomaka, DDS, member  
27 Jenna Vander Velden, student member  
28 Ila Sayed, student member  
29 Gabriel Holdwick, DDS, CGIA liaison  
30 Bill Sullivan, JD, vice president of advocacy and professional relations

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32 **Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call**

33 The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ralstrom at 9:04 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves  
34 and staff announced the requirement for a quorum was met.

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36 **Health Literacy/Public Education/Prevention**

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38 **Dental Treatment for Pregnant Women**

39 Ms. Emily Norrix, perinatal oral health consultant for the Michigan Department of Health and  
40 Human Services (MDHHS), presented new data on dental care during pregnancy for Medicaid  
41 women in Michigan. This is data not many states have been able to obtain due to the difficulty  
42 with systems that are not meant to work together. Previously, data was self-reported which is  
43 known to be inaccurate. The new data is obtained through claims data, with the assistance of  
44 CHEAR through the University of Michigan, which is more accurate. The data currently shows  
45 that approximately 24% of women enrolled in Medicaid had a dental visit of any sort during  
46 pregnancy with a drop to 19% during Covid which is consistent with other dental treatment data.  
47 The data is available in subsets including by treatment type, region, and race. A statewide  
48 dashboard is being built to track this data in 6-month periods moving forward so that the impact  
49 of various measures can be demonstrated.

50 The state intends to be able to identify different prosperity regions to pinpoint barriers and work  
51 in a targeted way in communities to improve access.

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### 53 **ADA Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention**

54 Dr. Jane Grover, director of the ADA Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP),  
55 presented an overview of ADA Council activities including:

- 56 • **Advocacy** – connecting social missions with members and organizations
- 57 • **Oral Health Services During Pregnancy** – release of a consensus statement in  
58 conjunction with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG),  
59 collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics on training for primary care  
60 physicians and dentists
- 61 • **Hospital Operating Room Access** – other states are facing this issue across the  
62 country
- 63 • **Age 1 Dental Visit** – training dentists on the knee-to-knee exam
- 64 • **Community Dental Health Caseworker (CDHC)** – continuing to provide training  
65 and resources for those interested in adding CDHCs to the workforce
- 66 • **Tribal Health** – working closely with the tribes in various states to improve  
67 relationships with tribes and offering resources, including CDHC training
- 68 • **Equity** – resolution to the ADA House of Delegates to define oral health equity and  
69 specify how the ADA will take action to address inequities
- 70 • **Medicaid** – resolution to the ADA House of Delegates to initiate a task force to  
71 address Medicaid issues as part of health equity
- 72 • **Adverse Treatment Reporting** – resolution encouraging the anonymous reporting  
73 of adverse incidents as a learning mechanism to help dentists share stories and  
74 prevent future issues

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### 76 **2025 Michigan State Oral Health Plan Goal #1**

77 The committee reviewed a side-by-side comparison of current MDA policy and activities with the  
78 new 2025 State Oral Health Plan recommendations under Goal 1 and the Healthy People 2030  
79 recommendations.

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### 81 **Medical-Dental Integration/Hospital Dentistry**

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#### 83 **Hospital Operating Room Access**

84 The committee is aware that the MDA continues to work with partners, including the Michigan  
85 Oral Health Coalition and RWC Advocacy, to advance a Medicaid rate increase on the facility  
86 fee and anesthesiologist fee. The MDA continues to receive word that the Medicaid office is  
87 working internally with the budget office toward implementation. It is unknown at this time  
88 whether this would include a waiver request to CMS to allow the state to reimburse at a rate  
89 higher than typically allowed by the Medicare fee schedule that governs these reimbursement  
90 rates. Other solutions for patients that may be candidates for treatments in other settings  
91 continue to be discussed. All parties have agreed that the priority at this time is to focus on  
92 those acute cases that require treatment in a hospital setting. The MDA continues to educate  
93 legislators and has received interest should there be a need to pursue legislation.

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### 95 **Advocacy/Government/Insurance Programs**

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#### 97 **Legislative Update**

98 Mr. Katibai provided the committee with an update on several items.

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- **Electronic prescriptions** – the MDA continues to work with the Michigan Bureau of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to determine whether enforcement will be delayed due to the non-existence of rules.
  - **Student debt** – the MDA is producing a short series of videos of members who have overcome student debt challenges.
  - **Administrative rules** – the Board of Dentistry is working on a new round of updates to the administrative rules. This includes rules for the newly recognized dental specialties, and reciprocity for dentists trained overseas.
  - **State budget** – the committee is aware that MDA’s budget priorities have been protected in the budget.
  - **Network leasing** – the MDA continues to work on improving transparency of network leasing.
  - **Medicare** – the committee is aware of the ADA’s policy regarding a dental benefit in Medicare Part B.
  - **Live patient dental exams** – the MDA Board of Trustees held a special meeting to discuss live patient dental exams.

116 **Dental Student and Faculty Update**

117 No dental students were in attendance. Dr. Mert Aksu, dean of University of Detroit Mercy  
118 (UDM) Dental School, provided the committee with an update. Dean Aksu informed the  
119 committee that the biggest challenge and focus at this time is keeping students active with  
120 clinical experiences. UDM is running clinics at lower capacity but longer hours in order to  
121 provide approximately 25 hours of clinic time in addition to community clinic rotations. The  
122 patient population at UDM is strong (approximately 95% of pre-covid capacity).

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124 This past year, UDM students graduated about 5 weeks late to ensure their clinical readiness.  
125 The school is preparing for its Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit in April 2022. The  
126 current applicant pool is strong with over 2,000 for 140 spots. The first-year class is comprised  
127 of 60% women and 40% men with 58-60% Michigan residents and the rest from out of state or  
128 Canada.

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130 There continues to be expansion and increasing enrollment in dental schools with schools  
131 graduating approximately 600 more dentists per year than 30 years ago. There are currently 68  
132 fully accredited, some additional schools online, and two dental schools have moved to 3-year  
133 programs.

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135 **\*\*Executive Session Began at 11:14 a.m.\*\***  
136 **(only committee members who are MDA dentist members,**  
137 **Dr. Gorecki, and MDA staff were present)**  
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139 **Medicare**

140 The committee discussed the current activity related to a mandatory dental benefit in Medicare  
141 Part B and the ADA’s position on this proposal.  
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143 **Donated Dental Awards**

144 The committee selected and approved nominations for the Donated Dental Outstanding  
145 Volunteer Dentist and Outstanding Volunteer Dental Laboratory awards. Nominations will be  
146 sent to the MDA Board of Trustees for review.  
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**\*\*Executive Session Ended at 11:31 a.m.\*\***

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150 **Future Meeting Dates – all via Zoom – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

151 a. Friday, February 4, 2022

152 b. Friday, April 8, 2022

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154 **Adjournment**

155 The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 11:32 a.m.