

1 **Minutes of the Michigan Dental Association**
2 **Committee on Access to Care**
3 **Friday, April 8, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. – via Zoom**
4

5 **Attended**

6 Curt Ralstrom, DDS, MS, chair
7 Lauren Johnson, DDS, vice-chair
8 Deborah Brown, DMD, member
9 Michael Campeau, DDS, member
10 Maria Manautou, DDS, member (portion)
11 Prabhjot Singh, DDS, member
12 Sarah Tomaka, DDS, member
13 April Stopczynski, manager of access and prevention
14 Neema Katibai, JD, manager of insurance and governmental affairs
15

16 **Absent**

17 Mert Aksu, DMD, member
18 Jenna Vander Velden, student member
19 Ila Sayed, student member
20 Richard Small, JD, consultant
21 Christine Farrell, consultant
22 Christopher Gorecki, DDS, consultant
23 Gabriel Holdwick, DDS, CGIA liaison
24 Bill Sullivan, JD, vice president of advocacy and professional relations
25 Karn Cornell, Donated Dental coordinator
26 Domonique Brace, Donated Dental coordinator
27

28 **Call to Order and Introductions**

29 The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Dr. Ralstrom.
30

31 **Oral Health-Hypertension Summit**

32 The committee was provided with a flyer containing updated and more detailed information on
33 the June 10, 2022 Oral Health and Hypertension Summit.
34

35 **Dental Treatment for Afghan Refugees**

36 The committee received a written update from Director Farrell on recent screenings provided to
37 Afghan refugees and plans to address identified needs.
38

39 **Michigan Oral Health Coalition**

40 The committee discussed the upcoming spring conference of the Michigan Oral Health Coalition
41 (MOHC), scheduled for May 19 and 20. The MDA will be sponsoring Ms. Chelsea Fosse of the
42 ADA's Health Policy Institute to provide a presentation on national and state level Medicaid data
43 and reform efforts.
44

45 The committee is aware that the MOHC is seeking nominations for Board members. Today is
46 the deadline for applications.
47

48
49 **Hospital Operating Room Access**

50 The committee was informed that following the February CAC meeting, the Governor's
51 executive budget recommendations were released. These recommendations included a
52 significant investment in Medicaid dental to raise the reimbursement rates and roll the Healthy
53 Michigan Plan, fee-for-service, and Healthy Kids Dental enrollees into a single contract with
54 benefits that would mirror the Healthy Kids Dental program. Additional recommendations
55 included a rate increase for hospital and ambulatory surgical center facility fees, although not at
56 the rate recommended by the MDA.

57
58 The MDA provided testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee in March and met with
59 the committee chair, Rep. Mary Whiteford regarding MDA's budget priorities. The MDA will be
60 providing testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee soon. This testimony continues
61 to promote the MDA's recommendations for Medicaid reform priorities and appropriate funding
62 for hospital and ambulatory surgical centers providing access for patients who need treatment
63 under general anesthesia.

64
65 The MDA has recently been successful in engaging with the Michigan Society of
66 Anesthesiologists to determine a feasible rate and support for an increase in anesthesia rates.

67
68 The committee discussed the status of the rules process for certified registered nurse
69 anesthetists (CRNAs) and dental anesthesiologists. The committee is aware that the MDA
70 Board recently approved a resolution from the MDA Committee on Government and Insurance
71 Affairs that indicates the MDA supports the payment of these services by health plans and will
72 advocate for changes to Medicaid policy to allow for payment of anesthesia professionals
73 providing general anesthesia in dental offices.

74
75 MDA staff is currently drafting a Journal article to inform the membership of the progress made
76 on this issue and the complexities involved.

77 78 **Michigan Donated Dental Services (DDS)**

79 MDA staff provided an update on plans to promote the \$25 million milestone at Annual Session.
80 The annual report video will be played for the House of Delegates at the opening of the session
81 during the presentation of the DDS awards. The Donated Dental booth will feature pins,
82 stickers, and buttons with the \$25 million logo. The program will also host a quiz, accessible by
83 QR code, where attendees can register to win travel blankets or totes featuring the program.

84
85 The MDA continues to advocate for additional funding for the Donated Dental program as part
86 of its legislative budget priorities. Although it was not included in the Governor's budget
87 priorities, there are other mechanisms throughout the process to attempt to get it introduced.

88 89 **Adult Dental Medicaid Reform**

90 The committee is aware that the Governor has proposed Medicaid dental reform as outlined
91 above. The committee reviewed its previous discussion on priorities for improving benefits such
92 as periodontal coverage and additional restorative options. The committee reviewed concerns
93 about denied claims, inefficiencies, documentation requirements, and malpractice costs. Much
94 of the details of coverage and function of the benefits, including exact payment rates, would
95 likely be determined during the Request For Proposal (RFP) process which is separate from the
96 budget process. The committee is aware that there is some pushback on this reform from the
97 current Healthy Michigan Plan administrators who fear losing a portion of their contracts. The
98 MDA continues to work with the MOHC Medicaid workgroup and other partners to identify

99 common areas of support and strategies to accomplish these goals. Dentists are encouraged to
100 take part in grassroots meetings with legislators to support the meetings staff and contract
101 lobbyists are having. The committee is aware that should reform be approved, it is unlikely the
102 RFP process would be completed and changes implemented until the 2023-2024 budget year.

103

104 **Legislative Update**

105 Mr. Katibai provided the committee with updates on several additional legislative initiatives the
106 MDA is currently pursuing.

107

- 108 • **Network Leasing** – the MDA bill on network leasing is currently being drafted.
- 109 • **Teledentistry** – the MDA is currently seeking a sponsor to introduce its teledentistry
110 legislation. Differences with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
111 have been resolved.
- 112 • **State Budget** – the committee discussed additional steps in the state budget process.

113

114 **Dental Student & Faculty Updates**

115 No dental students or faculty were present.

116

117 **ADA Council Liaison Update**

118 The ADA Council written report was shared with the committee via email. The committee
119 discussed concerns about Medicaid compliance mentioned in the report of the national
120 Medicaid Advisory Committee.

121

122 **Future Meeting Dates**

123 Friday, August 12, 2022 – 9 a.m. – 12 noon – MDA office building in Okemos, MI (lunch
124 provided)

125 Friday, November 4, 2022 – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – via Zoom

126 Friday, February 3, 2023 – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – via Zoom

127

128 **Adjournment**

129 The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 10:06 a.m.