

1 **Minutes of the Michigan Dental Association**
2 **Committee on Government and Insurance Affairs Meeting**
3 **MDA Office – Okemos, MI**
4 **May 13, 2022**
5

6 **Attended**

7 Gabriel Holdwick, DDS, chair
8 Jason Mashni, DDS, vice-chair
9 Debra Peters, DDS, member
10 Sarah Tomaka, DDS, member
11 Elizabeth Ralstrom, DDS, member
12 R. Graham Greenland, DDS, member
13 Christopher Smiley, DDS, MDA board liaison
14 Bill Sullivan, MDA vice president of advocacy and professional relations
15 Neema Katibai, MDA manager of government and insurance affairs
16 April Stopczynski, MDA manager of access and prevention
17 Kesha Dixon, MDA government and insurance affairs/access assistant
18 Ginger Fernandez, MDA manager of peer review, guest
19

20 **Absent**

21 Saranna Berger, DDS, member
22 Daniel Miller, DDS, member
23 Brianna Christine Kosecki, student-member
24 Tala Bayassi, student-member
25 Mark Johnston, DDS, ADA council liaison
26 Lauren Johnson, DDS, MDA committee on access to care liaison
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28 **Call to Order**

29 The Committee on Government and Insurance Affairs was called to order at 9:04 a.m. The requirement
30 for a quorum was met.
31

32 **Approval of the Agenda**

33 The agenda was approved as written.
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35 **House Bill 5116**
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37 The Committee reviewed existing policy to oppose HB 5116 because supporters of the bill have reached
38 out to the MDA to determine what amendments would be needed to shift the MDA's position. MDA
39 staff explained that the MDA's opposition was based on two reasons. First, HB 5116 creates new
40 requirements for on-the-job trained dental assistants to perform radiography. Currently, OTJ-trained
41 dental assistants are required to take a radiography course that is approved under the dentistry rules.
42 Second, the bill would repeal the law that authorizes the use of handheld x-ray devices, which is a
43 success of the MDA's past advocacy.
44

45 The supporters of the bill have indicated they are reviewing the issues to see if they are able to make
46 amendments to eliminate the impact on dentistry. However, MDA staff clarified that the MDA's existing
47 policy does not allow for a shift to neutral, support, or no position, even if the amendments were
48 adopted. MDA staff said that the sponsor of the bill stated that his intent was not to impact dentistry.

49 Additionally, the chair of the house health and human services committee indicated that the bill would
50 not move forward without addressing these issues. Finally, MDA staff shared that other providers, such
51 as the chiropractors, were also opposed.

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53 The Committee voted to amend the MDA's policy on HB 5116 to opposition as written.

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55 **House Bill 5898 and House Bill 5899**

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57 House Bills 5898 and 5899 were introduced by Representative Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain) and
58 Representative Sarah Cambensy (D-Marquette) on March 10, 2022. HB 5898 would allow for the parent
59 of a child residing in the UP who is enrolled in Healthy Kids Dental to pay a non-participating provider of
60 dental services the unpaid amount not covered by Healthy Kids Dental. HB 5899 would allow a child
61 residing in the Upper Peninsula to receive treatment for covered services from a dentist who does not
62 participate with Healthy Kids Dental and direct the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
63 to pay the non-participating dentist with the Healthy Kids Dental fee schedule.

64

65 MDA staff explained that the sponsors introduced the bills without having conversations with any
66 stakeholders and that they did not have any momentum in the Legislature. Additionally, the
67 enforceability and legality of these bills is not clear because they do not address how the Department
68 will ensure compliance with various federal requirements, such as enrollment with CHAMPS. The
69 Committee acknowledged that there are disparities in network adequacy across the state, particularly
70 with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Dentemax.

71

72 The Committee did not take a position or adopt a policy on these bills.

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74 **SB 1005**

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76 On April 13, 2022, Senator Tom Barrett introduced Senate Bill 1005, which would apply when a
77 suspended license was reinstated erroneously by a health profession board. This issue was brought to
78 Senator Barrett by a chiropractor in his district. Currently, in the event that a health profession board
79 erroneously reinstates a license and the provider practices in good standing and later discovers the
80 issue, the provider is considered to have practiced illegally regardless of their standing with the board.
81 While the board may reinstate the license, the provider is liable for illegal practice for the period that
82 they had the erroneously granted license. This bill would permit the board to retroactively reinstate the
83 license to the date that the license was erroneously issued if the provider has been in good standing for
84 that period.

85

86 The Committee discussed whether legislation was appropriate to address the situation that one person
87 is facing. However, there was agreement that the Committee would support a dentist in a similar
88 situation. MDA staff stated that the bill would not impact the ability of the Attorney General to
89 investigate unlicensed practice by a healthcare professional, but would protect an individual from
90 liability if they were practicing with an erroneously issued license.

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92 The Committee voted unanimously to support SB 1005, as written.

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97 **Legislative Update**

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99 MDA staff provided an update on the state budget process, which includes several MDA priorities. These
100 priorities are: Medicaid dental benefit reform for adults, addressing the Medicaid fees for dental
101 procedures requiring operatory access and general anesthesia, and increasing the grant used to operate
102 the Donated Dental Services program.

103

104 MDA staff is: waiting for the draft of the network leasing legislation proposal to be completed,
105 coordinating sponsorship and bill drafting for teledentistry legislation, and preparing to introduce
106 legislation to address a filing deadline that impacts the MDA-IFG's multiple employer welfare
107 arrangement (MEWA).

108

109 **Committee on Access to Care Update**

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111 The Committee on Access to Care has been supporting advocacy efforts on the state budget due to the
112 focus on improving access for Medicare populations in Michigan.

113

114 The Donated Dental Services program is currently recruiting more dentists to treat patients across the
115 state. While Southeast Michigan has recovered well from the impacts of COVID-19, there is a shortage of
116 dentists in other areas of the state. Additionally, there has been an increase in patients that have
117 minimal Medicaid coverage that does not include tooth replacement or restorative options, which is
118 creating complications for dentists who wish to provide care but are required to comply with the
119 requirements of that program.

120

121 The Michigan Oral Health Coalition's Spring Conference will be held in East Lansing on May 20-21, 2022.
122 The MDA is sponsoring keynote speaker Chelsea Fosse, who will present data supporting the case for
123 comprehensive adult dental Medicaid benefits at the national and state levels. Fosse is with the ADA
124 Health Policy Institute.

125

126 **ADA Council Update**

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128 Dr. Holdwick has been selected as the vice-chair of the ADA New Dentist Committee, which will lead into
129 the Chairperson role next year. The chair of the New Dentist Committee is also a member of the ADA
130 Board of Trustees, meaning Dr. Holdwick will also be on the ADA Board of Trustees when he assumes
131 the Chair.

132

133 **Future Meeting Dates**

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135 The Committee discussed whether there was a preference for in-person or virtual meetings. The
136 Committee agreed the virtual format encourages participation, helps improve diversity in MDA
137 leadership, achieving quorums, and eliminates long drives for some members. However, there was also
138 agreement that in-person meetings offered benefits, too. The Committee agreed that the November
139 joint CGIA-PAC meeting should be held in-person and the January CGIA meeting should be held virtually.

140

141 The committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on July 22nd via Zoom. The chair of the
142 committee will make a final decision on the formats of other scheduled meetings prior to each based on
143 the contents of the agenda and other circumstances.

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145 **Adjournment**

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147 Dr. Gabriel Holdwick adjourned the meeting at 10:22 AM.