

REPORT OF THE BARRIERS TO CARE COMMITTEE

2024

Members

Stephen Shuman, Chair; David Andersen; Elizabeth Brack; Michael Helgeson; TsiTsi Hungwe; James Nickman; Mary Seieroe; Katrina Pavlichek; Seth Huiras, BOT Liaison; Hanna Nguyen-Dao, MDA Staff; Carmelo Cinqueonce, Ex-officio.

Duties

Pursuant to the Committee Missions and Duties as determined by the Board of Trustees, it is the duty of this committee to:

1. Educate and inform MDA members and the community about challenges and opportunities to meet the oral health needs of Minnesota's children, elderly, special needs adults, and those living in poverty.
2. Network with other organizations that are closely involved in assessing and addressing the health needs of Minnesotans, particularly the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, and allied professional groups.
3. Develop and promote various practice models and best practices, including effective recruitment and retention of dental professionals, to meet the needs of rural and underserved communities suffering from inadequate access to dental care.
4. Play a leadership role regarding how to promote optimal health through effective prevention and early assessment for all Minnesotans.

Mission

The mission of the Barriers to Care Committee is to promote optimal oral health for Minnesotans, especially those living in poverty, to foster their general systemic health.

Activities

The Barriers to Care Committee continued its work this year to promote improved access by dental professionals to operating room (OR) care for those patients who require this approach for safe and effective dental treatment. The committee also continued to review and analyze ongoing developments in CMS plans for expanded Medicare coverage of medically necessary dental services and CMS hospital coding for dental treatment under general anesthesia. The committee plans to continue this effort and communicate important developments to MDA members as appropriate.

The committee also continued its work to support education in Dementia Friendly Dental Practices (DFDP) in collaboration with Trellis (formerly the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging) and the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. This past year, the full 6 CEU DFDP-Advanced Clinical Training program was presented in Duluth to the Northeastern District Dental Society. The website, hosted by the Area Agencies on Aging ([ACT on Alzheimer's: For Dental Providers](#)), also continues to house DFDP educational materials and take requests for training by interested dental professionals. This year, an additional 24 dental professionals completed the basic course, "Dementia Friendly at Work for Healthcare," bringing the overall total to 218 since inception. Fifty

1 more dental professionals completed DFDP-Advanced Clinical Training, bringing the total to 249
2 dental professionals since inception.

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4 **DFDP-Advanced Training Courses, 2022-present**

Course (hours, dates)	DDS/DMD	DH	DA	DT	MD	Nurse	Admin	TOTALS
MDA Star of the North Meeting (1.5 hrs, 4/29/2022)	11	11	33	0	0	1	6	62
ND Project ECHO (2 hrs, 6/8/2022 & 8/10/2022)	3	13	20	0	0	1	0	37
Park Dental CDE (4 hrs, 5/10/2022 & 9/27/2022)	27	23	40	0	0	0	10	100
MN Northeastern District Dental Society, 6 hrs, 1/12/2024	22	10	17	0	1	0	0	50
TOTALS	63	57	110	0	1	2	16	249

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6 Finally, the committee undertook an effort this year to update the MDA's Special Needs Adults
7 Provider Directory Survey which was last done about 10 years ago and is now outdated. The
8 purpose of this directory is to assist MDA members and staff in identifying dental providers to care
9 for adults with more complex special care needs. This would include adults with significant
10 developmental and/or physical disabilities, mental or psychiatric conditions, and more complex
11 medical conditions, among others. The committee has now completed its revised draft of this
12 survey and now plans to send the updated survey to all MDA members in the next few months.

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14 **Recommendations**

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16 It is recommended that the MDA House of Delegates continue to support the Barriers to Care
17 Committee and its work on operating room dental care access, Medicare dental coverage for
18 selected medical conditions or treatments, dementia-friendly dental practices, and an update of
19 MDA's Special Needs Adults Provider Directory in order to promote better oral health, through
20 provider and patient initiatives, for Minnesotans with oral health access issues.

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22 Respectfully submitted by:

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24 Stephen Shuman, D.D.S., M.S.
25 Chair