

# BARRIERS TO CARE COMMITTEE

2024

## **Committee Purpose**

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 Minnesota Department of Health, 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 oral health through effective prevention and early assessment for all Minnesotans.

## **Mission Statement**

The Barriers to Care Committee works to promote optimal oral health for all Minnesotans by understanding and addressing the care challenges of both dentists and patients.

## **Member Responsibilities**

1. Committee meetings:
  - a. The committee as a whole meets at least four times per year, either in person or by telephone, on weekday evenings. Subcommittees may be created and meet as needed.
  - b. Committee members voluntarily serve a one-year term. One representative is appointed from each of the eight district dental societies and one member of the Board of Trustees is the liaison to this committee. In addition, the committee may invite guests and ask non-member consultants to serve as non-voting members of the committee.
2. Individual member responsibilities:
  - a. The chair of the committee is responsible for calling the meetings to order, participating in the development of meeting agendas, running the meetings (including the proper use of motions and voting), reviewing the meeting minutes prior to distribution, and facilitating any necessary follow-up efforts after each meeting.
  - b. Members are expected to review meeting materials in advance and attend all committee meetings either in person, by telephone, or through video conferencing when available.
  - c. Members are encouraged to submit reports, updates, and agenda items in advance of each meeting.
  - d. When a member must miss a meeting, it is the absent member's responsibility to contact the committee chair to provide the chair with their report for the meeting.

- e. At the conclusion of one's term, members are asked to search for a member from his/her district to serve on the committee.

### **Relationships**

1. Authority to act: The Barriers to Care Committee has the authority to act on duties outlined in this manual.
2. Relationship to Board of Trustees:
  - a. One Trustee serves as a liaison to this committee.
  - b. The committee requests funding from the Board of Trustees annually, including requests for special, one-time projects as needed.
  - c. The committee submits proposed resolutions to the Board of Trustees related to activities and projects dealing with the Mission and Purpose of this committee.
3. Relationship to Constitution, Bylaws, and Ethics Committee: Responds to annual requests to review past resolutions assigned to the former Children's Health, Elderly and Special Needs Adults, Urban Safetynet, and Rural Health Care Committees in order to keep the MDA Digest of Policies current.
4. Relationship to Give Kids a Smile, Donated Dental Services, Mission of Mercy, and other volunteer programs: Receives updated information on the status of the project or event at least annually.
5. Relationship to New Dentist and Membership Committees and MN ASDA: Stays current with the initiatives of these groups as their activities around recruitment to rural areas and retirement are closely related to barriers to care issues.
6. Relationship to Legislative Affairs Committee: Stays current with dental legislation that may affect public program funding and administration and oral health in Minnesota.
7. Relationship to other dental, medical, and caregiver professional associations: Collaborates with other non-dental caregivers and health care professionals in initiatives to improve oral health.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The committee was created in 2013 by combining the Children's Health, Rural Health Care, and Elderly and Special Needs Adults Committees. Over time, it is expected that the committee will create more goals and objectives.

#### **Goal 1: Reduce barriers for dentists and dental practices in rural and underserved areas**

**Objective:** Help doctors, especially young doctors, to succeed in today's market through viable practice options in underserved areas and out state.

**Strategy:**

1. In collaboration with state agencies and U of M School of Dentistry, seek improvements to the loan forgiveness programs and improve education on financing opportunities in rural communities.
2. Consider creating materials with financing options and practice models commonly available in rural and underserved communities.

#### **Goal 2: Participate in public outreach and education opportunities**

**Objective:** Be a leader in oral health information for dentists and patients alike.

**Strategy:**

1. Provide current and user-friendly resource materials on the MDA website that can easily be accessed and used by dental professionals and other caregivers in the public.

2. Participate in public outreach events as appropriate.

### **MDA Staffing Responsibilities**

The MDA provides a staff director for this committee and that individual's duties include:

1. Maintaining committee meeting records at the MDA office.
2. Working with the committee chair to prepare meeting agendas, assist in developing the annual budget, review committee goals and achievements, and to keep the chair informed about activities related to the responsibilities of this committee.
3. Notifying committee members of meetings in advance, including all relevant materials needed for the meeting.
4. Attending all meetings of the committee.
5. Writing and distributing meeting minutes in a timely manner and ensuring that the minutes are posted on the MDA website.
6. Staying current with state, regional, and national events and activities related to the purpose and goals of this committee.