

# DENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2024

## **Committee Purpose**

It is the duty of this committee to:

Address dental education, workforce, and practice trend needs, questions and problems, while serving as the Minnesota Dental Association's liaison to:

- All dental assisting, dental hygiene, other allied dental health, and dental laboratory programs in Minnesota
- University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
- All entities that provide postdoctoral dental education
- Minnesota Board of Dentistry
- Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association
- Minnesota Dental Therapy Association
- Minnesota Dental Assistants Association
- Minnesota Dental Hygiene Educators' Association
- Minnesota Educators of Dental Assistants
- American Association of Dental Office Managers (MN)
- Midwest Dental Lab Association
- Indirectly, to Minnesota's primary and secondary schools to address "dental career days" and dental health education requests by teachers for their students

## **Mission Statement**

The Dental Education Committee works to improve dental education and, hence, oral health care, in Minnesota by gathering, monitoring, and disseminating information related to dental education and practice workforce trends.

## **Member Responsibilities**

1. Committee meetings:
  - a. The committee meets, on average, three to four times per year either in person or by telephone conference.
  - b. Committee members should be appointed from each dental district as well as the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. The appointments are recommended for a two-year term. A committee member may be reappointed for an additional two-year terms.
  - c. Consultants with particular expertise may be invited to address topics of interest and/or to serve as advisors to the committee as needed. For example, the committee recommends that the dean of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry serve as a consultant to the committee, representing the administration of the School of Dentistry. The committee anticipates that the dean (or the dean's representative) will attend meetings of the committee to provide ongoing information about the School of Dentistry.
  - d. One full-time faculty member is asked to serve as an active member of the committee, representing the School of Dentistry faculty.
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 before 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 web conferencing when available. When a member must miss a meeting, it is the member's responsibility to notify the committee chair (or MDA staff) in advance and to provide any reports or updates.
- c. Members are encouraged to submit reports, updates, and agenda items in advance of each meeting.
- d. After one's term, members are asked to recommend, to the incoming president of the MDA, a member from his/her district to serve on the committee.

### **Relationships**

1. Authority to act: The Dental Education Committee has the authority to act on duties outlined in this manual.
2. Relationship to Board of Trustees:
  - a. One trustee serves as liaison and voting member to this committee.
  - b. The committee requests funding from the Board of Trustees annually, including requests for grants to allied dental education programs as well as special, one-time projects, such as educational symposiums.
  - c. The committee submits proposed resolutions related to activities and projects dealing with the Mission and Purpose of this committee to the Board of Trustees.
3. Relationship to dental and allied dental education programs: Each committee member is appointed to serve as the liaison to dental assisting, dental hygiene, and/or dental therapist programs in his or her district. Committee liaisons frequently serve on the advisory boards of the programs to which they are assigned. Committee members should encourage an ongoing dialogue with their assigned program directors.
4. Relationship to Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association, Minnesota Dental Assistants Association, Minnesota Educators of Dental Assistants and Minnesota Dental Hygiene Educators' Association, Minnesota Dental Therapy Association, American Association of Dental Office Managers (MN), Midwest Dental Lab Association: The committee annually invites representatives from these allied professional organizations to meet with this committee to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern.
5. Relationship to Minnesota Board of Dentistry: A member of this committee and/or MDA staff will report regularly on the Minnesota Board of Dentistry meetings, actions, and proposed actions.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The Dental Education Committee proposed the following actions to meet relevant MDA House of Delegates resolutions, in addition to MDA Strategic Plan objectives assigned to the committee in recent years:

#### **GOAL: Advocacy**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To provide access to dental care by addressing dental workforce issues: (a) overall supply of well-educated dental professionals; (b) equitable distribution of dental professionals across Minnesota; and

2. To ensure that the educational programs graduate dental professionals who are trained and capable of providing quality oral health care.

**Strategies:**

1. Operate allied dental education program liaison networks efficiently and effectively.
2. The Dental Education Committee will request information from allied dental education programs in Minnesota on such topics as their recruitment strategies, criteria for admissions, and statistics on enrollment trends over time and practice locations of graduates. The committee will track this data and use it to set priorities and allocate resources and efforts in dealing with workforce issues.
3. The committee will address issues related to any proposed new level of dental practitioner based on:
  - a. Patient safety and well-being;
  - b. Cost-effectiveness to the dental practice; and
  - c. Employability and integration into the dental team.
4. The committee will monitor the use of expanded duties for allied dental professionals by obtaining information from the Board of Dentistry, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, and allied dental professionals and their associations.
5. The committee will respond to requests from primary and secondary schools for information related to (1) dental careers, to promote dentistry as a profession, and (2) oral health education for young students.

**GOAL: Strategic Plan and Annual House of Delegates Resolutions Review**

**OBJECTIVE:** To ensure continuity in committee activities and accountability for proposed actions.

**Strategies:**

1. At the beginning of each committee year, the committee will review its past years' actions and accomplishments and its proposed actions for the coming year. Because of the significant interrelationship between dental access and dental workforce needs, the committee will recommend that the MDA maintain this committee in the future.

**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 promptly.
6. Staying current with the state, regional, and national events and activities related to the mission and purpose of this committee.