



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 1 PM, Via Zoom

Mission: *To improve oral health with all Missourians by advocating for sound public policy.*

Vision: *Oral Health for all Missourians.*

Attendance: Dr. Dwight McLeod (Board Chair), Vicki Wilbers (at-large), Beth Vossler (Secretary), Dr. Mack Taylor (Vice-Chair), Dr. Michael McCunniff (Treasurer), Gary Harbison. Unable to attend: Toni Meyerkord (at-large)

AGENDA

Board decision-making process is based on consensus of the Board of Directors

Introductions – D. McLeod

Minutes (attachment 1, Board Minutes, February 19, 2025; attachment 2, Executive Committee Minutes, January 15, 2025) – D. McLeod – Approved.

Executive Director Update – G. Harbison

- Grants (attachment 3, grant agreements matrix) – reviewed current grants and agreements briefly.
- Session (see [HB 56](#), Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact) – HB 56 has passed the house and moved to the Senate. The companion Senate legislation, SB 327, is stalled after committee passage. HB 56 Has been attached to Senate Bill 7, and voted out of committee.
- State Dental Consultant – Dr. Megan Krohn, current Executive VP and Dental Director for Swope Health, has been announced as the new Chief Dental Consultant. She will start June 16.
- Community Water Fluoridation Sign-On Letter (attachment 4) – Consistent with our policy positions, MCOH signed a letter to congress on community water fluoridation. Elimination of community water fluoridation is supported by the Trump administration. There are also more state actions on CWF, including a statewide ban in Utah and a just-passed ban in Florida. We are seeing more local efforts to eliminate fluoride in Missouri. We have not had legislation to eliminate it, however. MCOH continues to work to support local advocates. We are fortunate to see more local community members, particularly dentists, stepping up to support CWF.

The overall federal landscape has changed. Only Dr. Natalie Chalmers remains as the Dental Director at CMS. All oral health staff at CDC and HRSA have been fired. ODH continues to report no issues with their funding. We continue to monitor. Loss of funding from ODH would impact our activities, but because the bulk of our funding is from Health Forward Foundation, Missouri Foundation for Health and CareQuest Institute, MCOH operations would continue overall.

- 2025 Missouri Oral Health Policy Conference – MCOH held a successful policy conference March 6 & 7. 136 attended. MCOH had 12 sponsors and 14 exhibitors. There were 7 sessions, 17 speakers, and 12 guided discussion group leaders. Several attendees also met with elected officials on Thursday morning. Dr. Aaron Bumann, Dr. Emily Hahn and Dr. Ron Wilkerson were honored with Oral Health Champion Awards for work supporting enrollment of new dental providers in Medicaid. Dr. Michael McCunniff was awarded the Board Chair Award related to his ongoing involvement and his work in origination the Coalition circa 1999. The conference survey is ongoing; results will come later. Overall, feedback to date indicates positive experience with the conference.

- ACH, Positive Pay – adding this function.

Organizational Issues – D. McLeod

- Financial Reports (attachment 5, Financial Reports February 2025; attachment 6, Financial Reports March 2025, attachment 7, MCOH FS 2024) – Approved.
- Nominating Committee Approval – The following comprise the MCOH Nominating Committee per bylaws: MDHA (Karen Davis, president), MDA (Vicki Wilbers) and MPCA (Joe Pierle). Approved. This committee will meet within a few weeks and will have recommendations for the Board at the annual board meeting on June 6.

Other/Updates – D. McLeod –

D. McLeod – ATSU completed accreditation review recently. UMKC is doing the same. Commencement soon. This will include the first graduating first class including international students. New UMKC dental school dean will start soon: June 1. Dr. Paul Luepke (periodontist). <https://www.umkc.edu/insider/posts/2025/04/new-dean-of-school-of-dentistry-announced.html> Dental school deans often collaborate to increase access to care. Vicki Wilbers – Mentioned Dr. Deyton's presentation at NOHC. Most questions he received were about the OPA project. This project is moving along. First reporting was done to dental board. There is work in other states on this project. MDA is getting questions. MDA also wants to support more people in becoming hygienist.

Upcoming Meetings –

Board Meeting/Annual Meeting of the Board – Friday, June 6, 2025 – 10:30 AM **in person only**

Central Bank (Motor Bank, 2nd floor), 500 Madison St., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Schedule for meetings after June to be set at the Annual Meeting of the Board

Policy Committee – Friday, May 2, 2025 – 9 AM – via zoom

Missouri Veterans Oral Health Work Group – Friday, May 2, 2025 – Noon – via Zoom