

**Maine Quality Forum  
Advisory Council**

**April 8, 2005  
Minutes of Meeting**

The Maine Quality Forum (MQF) Advisory Council met on April 11, 2005 at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta. Chair Bob McArtor called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Other members in attendance included Jonathan Beal, Laureen Biczak, Richard Bruns, Rebecca Colwell, Jeffrey Holstrom, Frank Johnson, Becky Martins, Charles Morrison, Dan Roet, Janice Wnek and David White. Maureen Booth of the Muskie School of Public Service was also in attendance.

**Update of Dirigo Health (Adam Thompson)**

1. Tough Choices: Cancelled because of bad weather but are re-grouping, obtaining resources to move forward with another state-wide meeting
2. Dirigo Choice Numbers as of April 11, 2005:
  - 5,240 Members
  - Over 400 Small Businesses
  - Over 1,200 Sole Proprietors
  - 700 Individuals-Cap is almost met and would like to expand the limit

**Safety Star Update**

Presented by Janice Wnek and Dennis Shubert.

Dr. Wnek explained that the Performance Indicator Committee has reviewed the 30 NQF safety standards in detail during two conference calls.

Dr. Shubert gave an overview of the project pointing out that the goal was to incent the implementation of safety standards by recognizing those who were leaders in implementation. He explained that the thirty NQF safety standards were the foundation and the Leapfrog Group had provided another layer of explanation and definition. The MQF task is to fit the standards to hospital service profiles in Maine. In addition, MQF must set up a validation process to referee the award and increase the awards credibility.

**RFP-Paid Claims Analysis**

Presented by Chris McCarthy.

The Paid Claims Database has been released. MQF will soon release a RFP to establish the present value of the database and obtain recommendations for its ongoing improvement.

**MQF Curriculum for Supporting the Activated Informed Consumer**

The Provider Group has a meeting set for May 25, 2005 and it will be open to the public. The goal is to obtain the providers' perspective of what they would define as an engaged, informed and activated citizenry. Also, the group will explore ways that providers can help activate the people and improve provider-patient interaction.

**MHINT**

Presented by Dennis Shubert.

Update: The Phase I study established the feasibility for health information interconnectivity among unallied providers. Jim Harnar from the Maine Health Information Center explained in detail the goals of Phase II early implementation. The effort will establish governance with transition to the new governance, technical details of the network itself and address the legal and privacy issues. The Maine Health Access Foundation has granted one hundred thousand dollars to the project. All partners are seeking support of the expected five hundred thousand dollar budget. The goal is exchange of health information by the end of 2006.

### **EMR Systems**

The group and the public discussed one specific challenge with implementation EMR. That challenge being sorting through the many vendors and implementing smoothly. No specific solution was recommended.

### **Quality Counts**

David White reported to the group the progress with Quality Counts. The organization did not receive the funding it sought for work with diabetes management. Mr. White explained that Quality Counts is planning to convene a large-scale meeting to help implement the care model in fall of 2005. Mr. White asked the Advisory Council to grant ten thousand dollars to Quality Counts, five thousand for infrastructure and fund raising, and five thousand to facilitate attendance at the fall meeting by providers who have not previously been involved.

### **Reporting Burden Discussion**

The group had an extensive discussion about the trade off between reporting burden and need for transparency and accountability. Dr. McArtor opened the discussion to public attendees. The consensus appeared to be that indicators of quality should be built around common definitions to reduce burden. Ms. Parker, from the Maine Hospital Association pointed out that the association supported transparency and accountability adhering to the principles of validated indicators with common definitions and value to the system as a whole. Mr. Roet suggested that he should have the information necessary to treat healthcare providers the same as any vendor-transparency re: quality data for decision making.

### **Transformational Change: Ten Points**

Dr. Shubert briefly went through the summarized ten point of the author (Karen Davis). Dr. McArtor suggested that a more meaningful discussion would be possible at the next AC meeting after members did their "homework"

Dr. McArtor and Dr. Shubert explained and the Council concurred that today's meeting was a proper method to continue to build expertise within the Advisory Council.

### **Agenda for next month**

- 1. Continuing discussion of Karen Davis's Presidents address.**