

**Maine Quality Forum
Advisory Council**

**Friday, May 13, 2005
Summative Minutes of Meeting**

The Maine Quality Forum (MQF) Advisory Council met on May 13, 2005 at the Dirigo Health building, 211 Water Street, Augusta. Chair Dr. Robert McArtor called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 AM. Others in attendance were Stephen Shannon, Janice Wnek, David White, Dan Roet, Frank Johnson, Jeffrey Holmstrom and Rebecca Colwell.

Dr. McArtor asked if there were any comments to April's meeting minutes and then made a motion to approve them. The council agreed.

Update of Dirigo Health (Karynlee Harrington)

1. DirigoChoice Numbers as of May 2005:
 - There are over 6,000 members statewide
 - At the moment, the enrollment cap of 4,400 Sole Proprietors and Individuals has been reached
 - Ms. Harrington said she has been given permission by the Board of Directors to discuss with Anthem the possibility of opening more enrollment opportunities
 - 300 Sole Proprietors
 - 100 Individuals on the wait list

Ms. Harrington also added that Dirigo Health and the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance have been meeting about the Savings Offset Payment plan. The Board of Directors has met twice this month and will meet again Monday, May 16, 2005.

Tough Choices will be held next Saturday, May 21, 2005 at the University of New England in Biddeford and the University of Maine in Orono. Ms. Harrington is going to talk to Trish Riley and follow up with Dr. Shubert after the Tough Choices sessions have been held to add more input the State Health Plan and Dr. Shubert will forward that onto the Advisory Council members.

Infection Rate Reporting (Dr. Shubert)

Dr. Shubert left early to attend the work session for Infection Rate Reporting and asked the Advisory Council what they had for opinions concerning what he should take to Legislative work session with him. After some discussion it was decided that the Advisory Council wanted Dr. Shubert to advise the Legislature that the Advisory Council is neutral regarding central line and ventilator associated infections in the ICU but opposed to hospital wide reporting.

RFI/RFP Update (Chris McCarthy)

The RFI and RFP update was given by Chris McCarthy. The RFI has had at least 20 responses. The deadline for the RFI is May 20 at 2:00 PM. The RFP has three goals: creation of indicators consistent with the IOM definition of quality healthcare, assessing the paid claims database, and a geographic variation analysis of advanced imaging in Maine. Because the intent to issue the RFP has been in the public domain for a while, interest in responding already exists.

The Maine Quality Forum plans to put together a team to review and score proposals. Dr. Shubert and Chris McCarthy are looking to outside experts and interested members of the Performance Indicator Committee. Dr. McArtor suggested contacting Dr. Bob Keller. One primary difficulty facing the MQF is that most qualified outside experts are likely to be respondents. The deadline for the RFP is June 25, 2005. MQF would like to award the contract as soon as possible.

Quality Star Program Update (Chris McCarthy)

The graphic for the Quality Star Program is having the final changes done on it and it will need to be copyrighted.

MHINT Update (Chris McCarthy)

MHINT is moving forward into phase II. Dirigo Health and the the Bureau of Health will fund the technology development portion of Phase II. MEHAF has designated \$100,000.00 to fund the governance and organizational development portion of Phase II.

Website Update: Demo on Hospital Compare, CMS Website (Chris McCarthy)

Chris McCarthy gave a demonstration on the CMS website Hospital Compare. The CMS data became available about 2 weeks ago and the information is available to anyone with web access.

Chris asked the Council if it was necessary for MQF to have a database on their website with this same information. Ms. Harrington added that Anthem and Cigna have their own comparing databases. The Council agreed that at this time it be redundant to do so.

Regarding the MQF website some suggestions were given that would help visitors to the website understand more clearly any links they may want to look

at. A suggestion was given that each link should have a sentence or two about the group or organization. This would make it easier for people to get to the website they most want to look at. Another suggestion was to add a search function to the MQF website.

Ms. Harrington commented that the marketing firm has signed on for 1 more year. They have a budget of \$400,000.00 with \$50,000.00 of that going to MQF. This could go towards a questionnaire for the MQF website regarding what people want and are looking for at the website level.

The numbers of hits, not attributable to search engine spiders, on the MQF website has fallen (some) since it was first introduced. The marketing firm can help to reintroduce the MQF website and get people looking at it again. The Maine Quality Forum needs to promote the website and its usefulness throughout the state.

Dr. McArtor asked that a reminder be sent to members of the Council 2 weeks before the next meeting so they can look at the website and bring ideas with them to the next meeting concerning any changes and additions to the website that they may have.

MQF Newsletter Update (Chris McCarthy)

The MQF Newsletter is in the bidding process. The first mailing will be sent to Providers, the Maine Medical Association and the Osteopathic Association and anyone else who may be interested in it.

Behavioral Health Transformation Grant (Chris McCarthy)

MQF was asked to participate in the application for the Behavioral Health Transformation Grant.

Dr. McArtor asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Dr. McArtor stated that since we were unable to get to everything on the agenda that in next month's Advisory Council meeting we would continue onto the Learning Community (Transformation Change) Karen Davis Speech Discussion and End of Life Care presentation given by Rebecca Colwell.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.