

**Maine Quality Forum
Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting-DRAFT
Friday, April 13, 2007**

The Maine Quality Forum Advisory Council held a meeting on Friday, April 13, 2007. Members in attendance were: Rebecca Colwell, Chair, Dr. Robert Keller, Co-chair, Brenda McCormick, Dr. Josh Cutler, Maureen Kenney, Dr. Janice Wnek, James Case, Al Prysunka, Dr. Jeffrey Holmstrom, David White, Dr. W. Stephen Gefvert. Also in attendance were Karynlee Harrington, Executive Director of the Dirigo Health Agency and Maureen Booth of the Muskie School of Public Service.

Rebecca Colwell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Ms. Colwell then welcomed Maureen Kenney to the Advisory Council.

Dirigo Update: Karynlee Harrington

Ms. Karynlee Harrington reported on Dirigo Health 2.0. The initiatives are:

- Regulate how much health insurers can charge to small businesses;
- Make health insurance more affordable to individuals;
- Require premium discounts to both small and large businesses that provide approved worksite wellness programs and to all individuals who don't smoke;
- Require insurers to provide more information about rates to consumers and allows for pilot programs that allow insurers to negotiate better prices while protecting consumer choice;
- Bring down costs and improve the healthcare system.

Ms. Harrington went on to say that the Governor has proposed health coverage for all-sharing responsibility. It would direct the Dirigo Health Agency, in consultation with representatives from the business, labor, economic development, taxation, consumer and healthcare communities, along with other stakeholders, to address the concerns for affordability, fairness and the impact on the business climate and develop rules needed to implement the plan and to report to the Legislature's Insurance and Financial Services Committee no later than January 1, 2008.

Individuals and businesses covered through the Shared Responsibility law will be required to make a financial contribution, possibly on a sliding scale based on ability to pay and size of business, if they do not provide or purchase health insurance.

Going forward the Dirigo Health Agency would be funded by the Savings Offset Program and a premium tax on HMO for 2008 and for 2009 use the premium tax on HMO and bad debt/charity care monies.

Ms. Harrington also told the Council that she had received Dr. Robert McArtor's resignation from the Advisory Council. This leaves two vacancies. Cathy Gavin's vacancy has not been filled yet.

Ms. Harrington added that Dr. Edward David has been named as a new Dirigo Health Agency Board of Directors member.

PHC4

Under the current proposal, the Maine Health Data Organization would require hospitals to include coding for nosocomial infections, using the "Pennsylvania methodology" within the discharge database. This amount to one additional field in the database.

On April 11th a meeting was held with MQF staff, MHA staff, and infection control professionals from around the state. The group discussed challenges and perceptions relative to the adoption of the PHC4 coding methodology. Central to the discussion at both the April 11th meeting and the AC meeting is the issue of process measurement versus outcome measurement. Dr. Shubert, speaking as Chair of the NQF Committee addressing nosocomial infections offered strong support for the adoption of the PHC4 approach. He stated that the Texas model, while attractive, likely is outside the budgetary capabilities of Maine. Infection control professionals offered equally strong opinions regarding the need to focus the emphasis on evidence-based, prevention processes and targeted prevention/intervention programs. Adopting the PHC4 method will require whole house surveillance. Following a robust conversation the Advisory Council agreed that information relative to nosocomial infections and prevention processes is important for patients and practitioners but felt that they were not prepared to recommend that the MHDO Board adopt the PHC4 method. While MHDO will decide whether or not to move forward, there was general agreement to continue the dialogue via the established infection group.

Employee Activation Presentation: Jim Kupel

Jim Kupel did a presentation on employee activation. Mr. Kupel's presentation can be accessed on the Maine Quality Forum website.

MeHAF I3 Presentation: David Rappoport

David Rappoport presented to the Advisory Council on behalf of MeHAF. The presentation can be accessed on the Maine Quality Forum website.

NSI Update: Chris McCarthy

Mr. McCarthy provided an update regarding the nursing sensitive indicator data. The data are maturing and data problems are being resolved as they are uncovered. MQF's vendor, The Medstat Group, is developing code that will help automate the data checking. Currently all data submissions are checked via visual inspection (this places a large burden on Ms. Schow, the team's epidemiologist). The group will continue reviewing the pressure ulcer data and likely move to convene a statewide pressure ulcer summit.

PIC Discussion-Health Dialog

The Advisory Council to be advised by the Performance Indicator Committee on this issue. The PIC will offer their advice to the Advisory Council to move forward with working with MQF staff to define the scope of work and methodologies to be established in the contract extension. Mr. McCarthy functions as the lead on developing the contract and deliverable plan.

Ms. Colwell stated that the PIC is better informed to make suggestions than the Advisory Council.

Robert Keller stated that he would like to continue with Health Dialog and then asked if anyone else would be interested in serving on the Performance Indicator Committee.

W. Stephen Gefvert, Maureen Kenney, and James Case volunteered to join the Performance Indicator Committee.

Dr. Keller went on to explain that the specific areas to carry forward are primary care and cardiology. The question was brought forward if these two categories should be expanded. Most agreed to keep them how they are.

PIC Discussion: MQF Data Website

The Advisory Council will be asked by the Performance Indicator Committee to suggest to staff to activate the data website.

Chris McCarthy told the group that the form and structure of the website is already in place. It is comparing hospitals to one another.

Maureen Kenney asked if there was a summary page for each hospital. There is not but one can be done.

Some feedback from the Advisory Council was is there compatibility for side by side comparison of hospitals and can international hospitals be included also.

Public Comments

Dr. Dennis Shubert stated that it is important for the MQF to take a role in HAI and Donna Dunton from Eastern Maine Medical Center is a needed person for this group. He also stated that the Pennsylvania project has been done well and we need to convince people that this system does work well.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.