

SUMMARY NOTES

Maine Quality Forum Advisory Council May 9, 2008

Present: Kathy Boulet, Josh Cutler MD, Director; W. Stephen Gefvert DO; Jeff Holstrom MD; Robert Keller MD (Chair); James Leonard, MQF staff; Rod Prior MD; Doug Salvador MD, Paul Tischer MD; Jan Wynek MD; Rebecca Colwell, Becky Martins, Douglas Salvador, MD, and David White. Karynlee Harrington, Executive Director of the Dirigo Health Agency, was also in attendance.

Item	Discussion	Decision/Action	Date Due
Dirigo Update	<p>Karynlee Harrington reported that LD 247 passed which would eliminate the savings offset payment (SOP) as a funding mechanism for Dirigo Health and substitute it with a 1.8% surcharge on paid claims, tax on beer/wine and soda/syrup; funds for Healthy Maine, and working capital advance.</p> <p>There is a potential peoples' veto on the new taxes which, if it goes forward, could either suspend the entire law or that portion relating to new taxes. By 5/18/08, the Secretary of State must confirm that 55,000 valid signatures have been secured. If the veto is upheld, the issue will be put on the November ballot and, if approved, would eliminate LD 247 as of 11/24/08.</p> <p>This unfortunate timing and development require that the Agency move forward with plans to apply the SOP for funding Year 04 operations. Additional legal expenses are anticipated as parties argue Year 03 savings upon which the SOP will be based. These developments also jeopardize the Agency's contract with Harvard Pilgrim which, under current terms, requires the Agency to confirm 12-month funding at the time of contract renewal in January 2009. Currently, only 6 months of funding can be confirmed.</p> <p>Members expressed concern that this situation diverts time and resources away from refining the product and focusing on the broader access and quality aspects of Dirigo.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members encouraged the Agency to broaden its public awareness campaign on the work of Dirigo and misconceptions about how funding is used to support more than 13,000 Dirigo members. • Karynlee encouraged members to participate in that effort by writing editorials and speaking with their constituents. • Karynlee is currently working on the budget for all aspects of Dirigo. All aspects of the program, including the MQF, will have a 10 percent cut in funding effective immediately. 	Final funding decisions expected in Fall, 2008

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Minutes	Minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.	Amendments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Wnek was present at the meeting • Dr. Gefvert is a DO not MD 	5/9/08
UPDATES: Pressure Ulcers	Chapter 270 includes a set of indicators on pressure ulcers that hospitals are required to report. Many data issues complicate the consistency and accuracy of these data. The MQF is working with a planning group to organize a Fall Summit for practitioners from all settings of care to learn more about data issues and prevention in this area.	Fall Summit being planned.	Fall, 08
UPDATES: EHR Demo	The MQF has applied for CMS grant funding to support up to 100 small-medium sized primary care practices implement electronic health records. Participating practices will be expected to generate core information and will receive incentive payments as part of their involvement in the project.	Application submitted	Award announcement expected in 6/08
UPDATE: PCMH	A priority of the MQF and the State Health Plan is the transformation of primary care practice. In response, a Steering Committee has been meeting to discuss key concepts of a patient-centered medical home (PCMH) and a potential pilot to test the concepts. Membership of the Steering Committee is expanding to include broader input of practitioners and consumers. Lisa Letourneau is working as a private consultant and has been contracted to lead this effort through the MQF.	Those interested in joining the Steering Committee should contact Josh Cutler.	Ongoing
UPDATE: State Health Plan	Josh reviewed elements of the State Health Plan where the MQF has been charged with specific tasks: patient-centered medical home, evaluation of variation, and hospital associated infections. As previously discussed, work on the patient centered medical home is currently underway. The MQF is participating in a workgroup to better define statewide capacity and interests in variation analyses. Work on hospital associated infections will be further discussed by the Performance Indicator Committee following this meeting.	Evidence of progress is expected on each of these fronts as part of the State Health Plan.	Ongoing

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Voluntary Physician Practice Assessment	Gordon Smith, Executive Vice President of the Maine Medical Association, reported on work being conducted under contract with the MQF to provide voluntary, independent quality reviews of unaffiliated primary care practices. Sixty-seven reviews have been completed, and approximately 25 are currently in process with a goal of 150 practices. A no cost extension through December 31, 2008 has been approved to continue the effort. In addition to an aggregate report of findings, the project will create a data base of primary care practices that has not previously existed. The MMA will maintain the data base on an ongoing basis.	Final report to be submitted to MQF.	12/31/08
Aligning Forces for Quality	Ted Rooney presented an overview of <i>Aligning Forces for Quality</i> (AF4Q), an initiative of Quality Counts in partnership with MQF and the Maine Health Management Coalition. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, AF4Q aims to achieve dramatic change through helping (1) health care providers improve their own ability to deliver quality care; (2) providers measure and publicly report their performance; and (3) consumers understand their role in demanding high-quality care. Ted will serve as project leader for this 4-year initiative which will help integrate many disparate activities across the state.	Ted sees the MQF as a critical bridge in its role of interpreting and using performance data. Ted will continue to update the MQF on project activities and to think provocatively about how the MQF can support the goals of the project.	Ongoing
Quality Chasm	David White gave an update on plans to design a tutorial on health care reform using <i>Crossing the Quality Chasm</i> as a framework. David is working with Quality Counts to include a plenary speaker at its annual Fall conference who can speak knowledgeably and enthusiastically on these radical health transformation concepts.	Quality Counts has a conference call planned for 5/12/08 with Paul Pseck to identify possible speakers.	Fall 2008

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MQF Website	<p>Jim Leonard reviewed the status of the MQF website and solicited input from members on how best to improve its usefulness. Currently the site tries to appeal to both consumers who want easy access to information to help in decision making, and providers and payors who seek more detailed analyses. As part of the Chartered Value Exchange, the MQF requested assistance to make the site more user friendly. Unfortunately, that request was denied. Karynlee noted that the Dirigo Health Agency site is being revised to better convey its access, quality and cost mission. Any change to the MQF site will need to be done with these broader concepts in mind.</p>	<p>Jim will send the beta site URL to members for their review. Any comments should be sent to Jim.</p> <p>Any site modification should consider mechanisms for getting user feedback.</p>	Ongoing
Next Meeting	The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2008		