

**Maine Quality Forum
Advisory Council
October 8, 2004
Minutes of Meeting**

MQF Advisory Council members present: Robert McArtor, Jonathan Beal, Laureen Biczak, Richard Bruns, Rebecca Colwell, Frank Johnson, Becky Martins, Jim McGregor, Dan Roet, Cliff Rosen, Stephen Shannon, David White, Janice Wnek, Dennis Shubert, Maine Quality Forum, Karynlee Harrington, Dirigo Health Agency, Maureen Booth, Muskie School of Public Service, and John Fields, MHINT were also in attendance.

Minutes

Minutes of the July 9, 2004 meeting were accepted as distributed.

Dirigo Health Update

Mr. Adam Thompson from the Governor's office gave an update on Dirigo Choice. The coverage for benefits will begin on January 1, 2004. This will be for small business owners with 2-50 employees. Enrollment has begun for the small business owners. Open enrollment for individuals will begin in February, with coverage for benefits being available in April. Mr. Thompson also noted that as of October 7, 2004, there were 1500 quotes already given out to the small businesses.

LD 616

Mr. Jonathan Beal summarized the progress of the Technology Assessment Committee in responding to the legislative by LD 616, the Maine Quality Forum Advisory Council. Mr. Beal outlined the processed date which has included a review of the literature by Muskie School of Public Service, review of the issues and provider input on the issues and potential nurse sensitive indicators by the Provider Group, written and oral information provided by the public. The draft report is underway and Mr. Beal anticipates presenting the committee's report to the Advisory Council at its November meeting.

Maine Health Information Network Technology (MHINT)

Mr. John Fields presented to the Advisory Council on The Maine Health Information Network Technology. (MHINT) Mr. Fields outlined the feasibility study that is now underway, and partially funded by Maine Quality Forum.

The goal of the MHINT Feasibility Study is to determine if a statewide integrated clinical information sharing infrastructure should be developed in Maine.

In June, 2004 the following organizations provided their support for the planning process:

- The Maine Quality Forum
- The Maine Bureau of Health
- The Maine Health Access Foundation
- The Maine Health Information Center

Representatives from these organizations formed a MHINT Steering Committee. The committee meets monthly to review progress on the study's work plan. Additional oversight and guidance will be shared by the Provider Advisory Committee and CIO Work Group to be developed among key stakeholders by MHINT Team.

The Project Team includes:

- Jim Harnar, Project Director
- John Fields, Project Manager
- Suanne Singer, Technical Coordinator
- Michael Day, IT Specialist
- Alice Chapin, Information Network Consultant
- ABT Associates, National IT Consultants
- Berry Dunn, McNeil and Parker, Maine IT Consultants
- Baker, Newman & Noyes, Financial Planning

After Mr. Fields presentation, the Maine Quality Forum Advisory Council formally passed a resolution endorsing the feasibility study.

Website Debut

Dr. Shubert reviewed the changes in the website with the Advisory Council. After a brief discussion, Dr. Shubert put the website in perspective of anticipated strategic communication plans. The exact date of the website debut is yet to be scheduled. But hopefully will be within the next several weeks. The beta site is available at: www.dirigohealth.maine.gov/mqfbeta/

Administrative Data

Christopher McCarthy presented on administrative data. He defined Administrative data and put the issue in perspective when used for attempting to find characteristics of medical care.

Actions List

Dr. Shubert gave a brief overview and explained that there is a plan to guide the activity of the Maine Quality Forum and asked that patience and understanding be used as we are continuing to make changes with the strategic plan.

On the revolving loan fund, the independent community bankers association has agreed to participate with Maine Quality Forum in that, we now need to move on to the rule making and then publication of that.

The RFP will be going out the door within the next week or two on the paid claims data base analysis.

The core group on the indicators is ongoing. Maine Society of Anesthesiologists have agreed to a beta blocker guideline that we will hopefully soon be able to define.

Dr. Shubert explained that he was attempting to develop a matrix between what the legislature requires and how others organize the healthcare system. The most progress that has been made thus far is with the state health plan supporting EMR as an essential process of the CON process and the effort with MHINT. Cardiac Surgery and PCI (Percutaneous Cardiac Intervention) mortality was just approved at the National Quality Forum. The methodology for mortality has some technical issues working with the thoracic surgeons that haven't been worked, so the MQF can't deal with that quite yet. There is a framework that the MQF is working within.

Discussion of Public Information about the Maine Quality Forum by Others

Dr. Shubert remarked that the Maine Quality Forum had failed to be timely enough in reporting its activities, thereby allowing others to report its activities in their own way. Dr. Shubert again spoke briefly about the strategic marketing plan, and suggested to the Advisory Council that he hope to present a plan to the Dirigo Health Agency Board for budgetary approval in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55.

**Next Maine Quality Forum Advisory Council Meeting:
Friday, November 12, 2004
9:00 – 12:00 PM**