

**Maine Quality Forum
Advisory Council**

**Friday, February 10, 2006
Summative Minutes of Meeting**

Members present: Jonathan Beal, Dr. Richard Bruns, Rebecca Colwell, Catherine Gavin, Dr. Jeffrey Holmstrom, Dr. Robert Keller, Becky Martins, Dr. Robert McArtor, Lisa Miller, Daniel Roet, Dr. Paul Tisher, and Dr. Janice Wnek. Maureen Booth of the Muskie School of Public Service, Al Prysunka of the Maine Health Data Organization, and Dr. Dennis Shubert were also present.

Chair Rebecca Colwell called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

Minutes

The Council approved January's meeting minutes.

Quality/Cardiac Draft Review

Dr. Shubert reminded the Council that MQF has a statutory obligation to provide an Annual Quality Report to the people of Maine, and that this year's Report, a spotlight on the issue of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or heart attack care, will be a two-sided newspaper insert made of Kraft paper. He noted that the mock-up will include racing symbols and convey the message of the "need for speed." Dr. Shubert agreed to share the mock-up with the Council when it becomes available next week.

Dr. Merry Presentation

Dr. Shubert asked for feedback from the Council regarding inviting Dr. Merry to speak about how health care needs to change. The Council agreed a presentation by Dr. Merry should attract a large audience and be held in a different venue. Becky Martins suggested that the presentation be held at the University of Maine in Portland or Augusta. Dr. Wnek noted that extending an invitation to Dr. Merry might be very expensive.

Committee Scheduling Discussion

Dr. Shubert informed the Council that Performance Indicator Committee (PIC) and Community Engagement Committee meetings will meet after the Council meeting on alternate months due to the limited amount of time available after each Council meeting.

CON Review

Denise Osgood of the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services provided information about what hospital licensure is, particularly in terms of quality and safety.

Ms Osgood informed the Council that hospitals not accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) receive visits by the Division once a year to achieve federal certification and state licensing. Unlicensed hospitals cannot provide any care. National patient safety standards, while attended to by some

Maine hospitals, are not a federal or state requirement. The Division does not dictate hospital quality or safety indicators, but Maine hospitals must provide evidence that they have quality and safety indicators and work to improve them. The Division identifies any deficiencies in the collection and follow-up of a hospital's indicators. The Division also specifically looks to see if hospitals follow up on any sentinel events.

Dr. McArtor noted that cost is often a factor for small hospitals that opt out of JCAHO accreditation, but continue to adhere to JCAHO standards. Dr. Shubert remarked that a communication gap exists because the public has no way of knowing that a non-JCAHO accredited hospital still tracks and meets JCAHO indicators.

Catherine Cobb of the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services responded to Council questions regarding the Certificate of Need (CON) process. Ms. Cobb clarified that CON applicants can add quality and safety information to their applications during the consideration period, but noted that a set time period also exists for the applicant to respond to the Division's preliminary analysis of the application. She noted that strong applications will be complete to begin with and should not require numerous additions. Ms. Cobb reported that she is creating an organizational chart depicting staffing among the Division's units, as well as a draft mission statement and guideline principles for the Division. These documents will help inform the CON process.

The Council unanimously agreed that it would not comment on specific CON applications. Daniel Roet noted that a perceived conflict of interest between Council members and CON applications is just as important as any actual conflicts of interest. Dr. Shubert noted that the Council's role in the CON process is to help determine quality and safety markers for applications. He drew the Council's attention to a quality and safety grid included in Maine General's application that clearly outlines how it measures up to national safety standards. Such a grid might be a useful addition to all applications. Dr. Shubert also reported that MQF is working with Maureen Booth to create internal procedures for the CON process.

Project Updates

Chris McCarthy informed the Council that the Community Engagement Committee had a two-day meeting and came up with a basic design for the Community Hearth project along with a couple of communities in which to pilot the project. One pilot community is an area where the Committee believes the Community Hearths can be successful; the second pilot community offers more of a challenge.

Dr. Shubert noted that a kick-off meeting for the Acute Myocardial Infarction Care Coordination project will be held April 11. Gus Lambrew, M.D. is the medical lead and Tish Tansky the project coordinator of this project.

Dr. Shubert reported that MQF is working with professional societies to recruit participants for the Primary Care Practice Assessment program, which will inform practices by assessing and sharing with them their own practice performance data.

The Safety Star update was postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints; Ms. Colwell noted that Safety Star would be a topic of discussion at the PIC meeting directly following the Council meeting.

Dirigo Update

Karynlee Harrington reported that two legislative documents are before the state legislature. LD 1845 authorizes the Dirigo Health Agency (DHA) Board of Directors to cancel or renew DHA's contract with the DirigoChoice insurance carrier. Ms. Harrington noted that currently the DHA Board can only select fully insured carriers, and that DHA's contract with the current carrier ends at the end of this year. Public hearings on LD 1845 were held this past week and a work session will be held next week.

Ms. Harrington mentioned a second LD which would enhance the network of providers who sell the DirigoChoice product.

Website

Due to time constraints, the MQF website discussion was postponed until the next meeting. Chris McCarthy reminded the Council that he would like their input before issuing an RFP for the website next month.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Ms. Colwell adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm.