

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Maine Quality Forum Advisory Council**

**March 12, 2004  
Minutes of Meeting**

The Maine Quality Forum (MQF) Advisory Council met on March 12, 2004 at the Muskie School of Public Service, Augusta. Chair Bob McArtor called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Other members in attendance included Rebecca Colwell, Frank Johnson, Lisa Miller, Charles Morrison, Janice Wnek and David White. Tom Dunne, Executive Director of the Dirigo Health Agency, and Maureen Booth, of the Muskie School of Public Service, were also in attendance.

Minutes of the February 13, 2004 meeting were accepted with one revision that was incorporated and subsequently distributed to members.

#### **Update on Dirigo Health**

Tom Dunne reviewed activities within Dirigo Health and its related commissions. Tom announced the selection of Dennis Shubert, a neurosurgeon with 20 years of experience and a recent masters from Harvard University in health care management, as the new director of the Maine Quality Forum. Dennis begins his tenure on March 15.

#### **Certificate of Need Program**

Bill Perfetto, Assistant Director of the Division of Financial Services, outlined the current process for evaluating certificate of need proposals. Bill emphasized his preference to get involved early in the proposal development process so that his office can help shape the scope and direction of projects. Recent legislative changes require automatic public hearings on requests and the opportunity to review a project within its first 3 years to assure that implementation conforms with conditions of approval. Bill acknowledged that current decisions on new technologies are made largely on the basis of capital costs and that more attention needs to be focused on the clinical efficacy of technology, its rational allocation within the State, and long term impact on operational costs..

Bill reported that a revised Procedure Manual is being prepared which incorporates the role of the MQF in the CON review process. Bill agreed to share a copy of the Procedure Manual for review at the next meeting of the MQF Advisory Council. Presently, no technology-focused CON applications are in the pipeline.

#### **Provider Group**

Becky Colwell reviewed the latest revision to the Mission Statement for the Provider Group. Several clarifications were made to this document:

- At least one overlapping member would be appointed on the Provider Group from the MQF Advisory Council.

- The Chair of the Provider Group would be appointed by its members.
- The Mission Statement should explicitly state that members represent their professional category and not the organizations which have nominated them.
- Additional providers may be brought in to serve as expert panels on specialized matters.

Members adopted the Mission Statement and recommended that staff initiate the nomination process.

### **Performance Measurement Subgroup**

Bob McArtor reported that there has been no official meeting of the Subgroup but that he has had several conversations with its Chair, Cliff Rosen. An early task for the Dennis Shubert will be to develop a charge for the Performance Measurement Subgroup and, as deemed necessary, to develop an RFP for a contractor to assist in the design and execution of a process to select a set of core measures. Maureen Booth reported that the Public Purchasers Committee expressed interest in applying performance measures to performance-based contracts. Frank Johnson, Chair of the Public Purchasers Committee, agreed to serve on the Performance Measurement Subgroup to coordinate efforts.

### **Action Items**

Members reviewed a summary of action items for the next six months and proposed the following edits:

- The selection of a preliminary list of core measures should be completed by August '04.
- Tom and Dennis would clarify expectations for the MQF to contribute to the State Health Plan which is due in May '04.
- Clarification of the MQF's role in technology assessment should be made by April '04. Bob will appoint a chair to the TA Committee to replace Frank Johnson who will serve on the Performance Measurement Subgroup.

The Action List will be updated each meeting and shared with the MQF Advisory Council for their reference and input.

### **Legislative Updates**

Bob McArtor referred members to a resolution that was passed by the Human Services Committee directing the MQF Advisory Council to review direct-care registered nurse staffing levels in general, acute and specialty care hospitals, the issue of minimum staffing ratios for direct-care registered nurses in hospitals and the rules of the Department of Human Services on direct-care registered nurse staffing. A report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is due January 15, 2005. Bob recommended that a proposal for addressing this request be developed for review at the April meeting.

Joanne Sekunda-Rawlings, Policy Development Specialist in the Bureau of Insurance, reported that changes to the Insurance Code have gone through hearings and are awaiting Legislative review. These changes would permit a managed care carrier to provide financial incentives encouraging members to use designated providers for a limited set of services insofar as these providers meet specified quality standards. Joanne indicated that the Bureau would like to leave open the possibility of coming to the MQF Advisory Council in the future for guidance on specific situations that may arise with respect to these changes.

### **Quality Counts**

Bob reported that the Dirigo Board concurred with the recommendation of the MQF Advisory Council to provide financial support to Quality Counts, a Maine-based initiative to improve healthcare quality. Dirigo Health and the Maine Quality Forum will be included on the agenda for Quality Count's second educational symposium planned for April 7 at the Eastland Park Hotel in Portland.

### **Other Business**

David White raised concerns about LD 1765 which he understood to lower minimum benefits that an insurer was allowed to offer. Members of the audience clarified that the bill did not alter benefits but required that plans standardize their disclosure of benefits so that consumers could conduct an accurate comparison across plans.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the MQF Advisory Council is scheduled for Friday, April 9 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon in the same location. The following items were proposed for inclusion on the agenda for that meeting:

- Welcome to Dennis Shubert
- Follow-up discussion on procedures to involve MQF in CON applications
- Performance Measurement Subgroup report
- Possible presentation by Cliff Rosen
- Action Items

### **Public Comments**

Vicky Kuhn, Anthem, questioned comments made by Bill Perfetto regarding long term operational costs resulting from the approval of mobile PET units. Vicky agreed to follow up with Bill and convey her findings back to the Advisory Council.

Gordon Smith, Maine Medical Association, reminded members that Dirigo Health eliminates the CON exemption given to single specialty physician offices.

Bob McAfee, Dirigo Health Board Chair, proposed that the Council consider inviting Cliff Rosen to present his observations regarding the impact of technology on his field of osteoporosis to demonstrate the complexity of issues that are likely to come before the group in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.