

ATTACHMENT A

Maine Quality Forum Advisory Council

**April 9, 2004
Minutes of Meeting**

MQF Advisory Council members present: Robert McArtor, Clifford Rosen, Janice Wnek, Stephen Shannon, Richard Bruns, Nancy Kelleher, Rebecca Colwell, Rebecca Martins, Jonathan Beal, Lisa Miller, David White, Frank Johnson, Dan Roet, Chip Morrison, and Laureen Biczak. Dennis Shubert, Executive Director the Maine Quality Forum, Tom Dunne, Executive Director of Dirigo Health and Maureen Booth of the Muskie School of Public Service were also in attendance.

Minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2004 had been previously distributed. They were accepted with the request that the Advisory Council establish how many members need be present to establish a quorum.

Dr. McArtor proposed that a Vice Chair to the MQF Advisory Council be appointed. Members were asked to notify the Chair of their interest in serving in this capacity.

Introduction

Tom Dunne introduced Dennis Shubert as the Executive Director of the Maine Quality Forum. Dr. Shubert presented a brief life history as it applied to his new position. Dr. Shubert also thanked Dr. MacAfee who was in the audience, as well as Mr. Dunne and members of the MQFAC that helped with his selection process, for the opportunity to enter into public service.

Mission Statement

Dr. Shubert presented an alternative draft proposal for the mission/vision statement for the MQF as well as a tag line. The group discussed the need for mission./vision statements that would be part of the public persona of the MQF and the MQFAC. Dr. Shubert explained that the recently chosen marketing firm for Dirigo would be helping with the wording of future drafts. Dr. Shannon offered to connect an organization within the University of New England with expertise in communicating with the public about health issues. Staff were also encouraged to contact the Maine Health Management Coalition for findings of focus groups they conducted with Maine consumers.

Update on Dirigo Health

Mr. Dunne distributed the April issue of the monthly update on the Dirigo health reform. MQFAC members asked that the AC be integrated into the information flow from the other groups in health reform so that each group might better interact and conserve resources. Members expressed their willingness to receive information by email primarily. Mr. Dunne and Dr. Shubert agreed to explore better cross connections for the

many groups. Materials presented by David Wennberg to the Commission to Study Maine's Hospitals will be distributed to the MQFAC.

Certificate of Need Program

Dr. McArtor outlined the MQFAC's desire to participate actively in the CON process and how that process interfaces with the State Health Plan. The discussion revolved around how technology assessment would be performed and whether or not the assessment would be proactive or reactive. Dr. Shubert conveyed the desire from the staff involved in the creation of the State Health Plan to provide a forward looking technology assessment to help guide the State Health Plan. Council members raised concerns about the resources necessary to provide such input. Dr. McArtor asked for an opportunity to discuss with the planners a more specific requirement. Dr. Shubert pointed out that the MQF was pursuing ways to purchase information on future trends in healthcare technology. The Council members asked that the Technology Assessment Committee propose a specific process of technology assessment for consideration at the next meeting based on a working paper prepared for the February MQFAC meeting. It was the consensus of the MQFAC that all CONs filed should be reviewed by the MQF to establish the need for MQF technology assessment. Dr. Shubert agreed to have the MQF draft CON review scenario for the next meeting.

Provider Group

Ms. Booth reported that nominations were solicited from organizations specified by the MQFAC. Council members were encouraged to make nominations as well and to propose additional nominating organizations. Maureen also pointed out that the Dirigo web site would offer opportunities to nominate or self nominate. It was confirmed that the MQFAC Provider Subgroup would develop selection criteria and present a slate of proposed members for the Provider Group to the MQFAC as a whole for selection.

Performance Measures

Dr. McArtor described his efforts to bring together the MQF, the Maine Hospital Association and the Maine Health Management Coalition around the issue of a core set of hospital indicators and a common format of presentation. The stated goals of the ad hoc group are to minimize the burden on hospitals and provide information in a format that would be neutral in presentation and consistent in formatting. Dr. McArtor, Dr. Shubert, Dr. Rosen and Mr. White would participate on behalf of the MQF and the MQFAC. The Performance Measure Subgroup would review preliminary hospital indicators before proposing a core set to the MQFAC for their review and recommendation. Dr. Shubert provided his philosophy of performance measures that directly aid performance improvement. Dr. Shubert presented an early draft of the potential use of the all payers paid claim data base in a scenario of the use of x-rays during the evaluation of ankle injuries. Several members cautioned that claims data must be interpreted carefully given potential coding problems and the use of global fees within certain service settings. Dr. Rosen, head of the performance measurement subgroup, suggested and the MQFAC agreed to recommend that the MQF obtain the services of a healthcare epidemiologist

either through direct hire or under contract. An epidemiologist would be instrumental in evaluating and selecting performance measures.

Action Item List

Dr. Shubert reviewed the status of items on the action list. In response to a question regarding the revolving loan fund to support technologies, it was noted that this activity will await the selection of an insurance partner for Dirigo.

Legislative Update

Dr. McArtor reviewed the background to LD 616. Dr. Shubert advised that the MQFAC refer LD 616 to the Technology Assessment Committee. The use of the technology assessment protocol (that is under development) would allow participation by the Provider Group and the MQFAC.

State Health Plan

Mr. Dunne asked members of the MQFAC to suggest issues for inclusion in the State Health Plan that could be further discussed at the May MQFAC meeting.

Recommendations included:

- How to facilitate the appropriate use of technology across community and specialty providers
- Quality improvement processes with emphasis on chronic care
- Access/cost/quality trade offs
- Promoting informed consumers
- Health care workforce issues.

Other Business

A question was raised about how the MQFAC should decide what issues to bring before the MQFAC. Dr. McArtor asked that this discussion be deferred to the next meeting.

Public Input

Gordon Smith from the Maine Medical Association volunteered to forward to Dr. Shubert health care protocols that had special protection under medical liability statutes.