

**Maine Quality Forum
Advisory Council**

**Friday, July 14, 2006
Summative Minutes of Meeting**

Members present: Rebecca Colwell, Dr. Jeffrey Holmstrom, Frank Johnson, Dr. Robert Keller, Becky Martins, Dr. Robert McArtor, Lisa Miller, Dan Roet, and David White. 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 both the May and June meeting minutes.

Dirigo Update

The Dirigo Update was postponed until the next meeting.

Old Business

Data Analysis Feedback

Dr. Shubert reported that AHRQ generated updated patient safety indicators, of which two required further research by MQF.

Large Hospital AAA

Dr. Shubert explained that the AHRQ data showed a sharp increase in abdominal aortic aneurysm mortality procedures in a large Maine hospital. The hospital's CMO shared data from two previous years which showed that the mortality spike was an aberration.

Small Hospital Mortality

The AHRQ data also showed a high death rate in low-risk diagnosis-related groups in a small Maine hospital. The Division of Licensing and the hospital determined that a simple coding error was responsible for the data. In actuality, the indicator is not a problem area for the hospital.

Dr. Shubert explained that MQF will be disseminating AHRQ Provider Level Quality data by first making it available to hospitals for comment and then publicly presenting it with his analysis at an Advisory Council meeting. He noted that these presentations will be the extent of public dissemination since MQF does not yet have a mechanism to effectively present the information in an easy-to-understand format.

Strategic Plan Review: Success and Failure

The Council reviewed a table that Dr. Shubert created to facilitate the assessment of MQF's progress in achieving its five-year goals. Dr. McArtor suggested MQF work towards two goals in the future: developing partnerships with other organizations to improve provider performance and the quality of care; monitoring its progress at not duplicating the efforts of other organizations such as the Maine Health Management Coalition (MHMC). Frank Johnson noted that MQF must ensure it reaches out to employers/purchasers that are not a part of MHMC. Dr. Keller suggested MQF look to specialty societies as a mechanism for conveying quality data to providers in an effort to create meaningful change.

Council members agreed to utilize the table to individually rate the degree to which they believe MQF has met its goals.

Website Update and AHRQ Demo

Dr. Shubert reported that while the MQF website is currently a static "bulletin board," it will soon incorporate a dynamic data site thanks to an in-kind contribution of \$500,000 from AHRQ. This week AHRQ agreed to share the software used to create its State Snapshots and provide technical assistance for MQF to adapt the AHRQ site software engine to MQF purposes. The State Snapshots demonstrate how well states perform on various indicators, compared to both national benchmarks and regional performance. The cornerstone of the AHRQ State Snapshots is a speedometer graphic that conveys complex quality and variation information in a simplistic, easily recognized manner. The 2005 State Snapshots are online at <http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov/qualityreport/2005/state/summary/intro.aspx>.

Once the elements of the AHRQ State Snapshots are incorporated into the MQF website, people visiting the MQF site will be able to choose what area of care or indicator they want to look at, along with what they want to compare it to, such as specific regions or hospitals. MQF will also be able to illustrate geographic variation data too, but will do so using coloration charts (or maps) of Maine.

Dr. Shubert noted that this collaboration with AHRQ will help MQF convey quality data more effectively and that AHRQ is looking at Maine to be a model for state use of the State Snapshot website structure. An optimistic finish date for the integration of AHRQ software into the MQF website would be late fall 2006.

In a Heartbeat Update/HRSA

Dr. Shubert shared the lists of workgroup members for the *In a Heartbeat* project, a statewide effort focused on coordinating the care of ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. Dr. Shubert also noted that MQF applied for a HRSA grant that would support the project efforts. Dr. Shubert walked the group through the distributed documentation outlining goals and methods of the project.

Practice Assessment Update

Chris McCarthy reported that the Project Director position for the Practice Assessment program has been filled. The Project Director will be responsible for coordinating practice assessments as well as working with Quality Counts to develop learning networks among practices. Chris stated that about 45 practices have volunteered for the project, which has been endorsed by the Maine Academy of Family Physicians. Lisa Letourneau is reviewing possible metrics for the practice assessments, which will include clinical quality indicators and patient satisfaction surveys.

New Business

Healthy Behaviors

Dr. Shubert played a short commercial about healthy weight promotion created by MaineGeneral Medical Center and featuring CEO Scott Bullock.

Legislative Testimony

Dr. Shubert reported that with the help of Council member and State Representative Lisa Miller, he was able to provide an overview of MQF activity to the Health and Human Services Committee. Dr. Shubert's presentation included data about the administration of antibiotics before surgery and a story entitled "Aunt Ina" which offered a vision of quality health care for 2016.

Chris McCarthy invited Council members to send him their own personal stories and/or visions for the health care system so that MQF can begin creating a collection of these types of stories.

Data Activities

Chris McCarthy reviewed the metrics and statuses of the four main groups of MQF data analysis: Chapter 270, variation analyses, paid claims analyses, and AHRQ quality indicators. While the variation analyses and most of the Chapter 270 data are currently active and regularly updated, the paid claims data analyses are in development. Chris noted that the AHRQ QI data is currently being run.

NSI: Data/Information Presentation

Chris noted that nursing sensitive indicator (NSI) data from the trial quarter is now available and preliminary analyses have been made. He presented a couple of deidentified charts, noting that conclusions cannot be drawn from the data at this point. Despite this, Chris reported that correlations (between RN care hours and patient falls, for example) can be found with just one quarter of data, which bodes well for future analyses.

Provider Group Vacancy

The Council voted unanimously to confirm Maryanne Robbins for the vacant RN faculty member seat on the Provider Group.

Public Comments

Ms. Colwell reminded everyone that the next Council meeting is September 8, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55pm.