**MHDO**

Maine Health

Data Organization

 **Information │ Insight │ Improvement**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2024

The virtual meeting of the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) Board of Directors began at approximately 9:05 a.m. with the following Board members in attendance: Joel Allumbaugh (chair), Dr. Neil Korsen, Andrew Ellis, and Michelle Probert. Absent: Lisa Harvey-McPherson and Ronald Watson. Also in attendance: Karynlee Harrington, Executive Director and Deanna White, Agency Assistant Attorney General.

**Chair Report**

Joel opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the voting protocol for virtual meetings.

**Board Action:** Board votes unanimously to approve the November 7, 2024, meeting notes as drafted.

**Executive Director Report**

Refer to Meeting Presentation and Documentation in the link below for details on topics summarized below: <https://mhdo.maine.gov/boardMtngs.htm>

* **Review Updated Board Composition Proposal**

Karynlee reviewed the revisions she made to the board composition proposal based on the feedback from the board at the September 5, 2024, board meeting. Based on the discussion with the board, Karynlee will revise section 2 subsections A.4, A.5, and B. Karynlee will email the revised document to the board ASAP for final review. She will also update the board at the February board meeting on the next steps in the legislative process.

* **Review Requirements in PL 2023, Chapter 584 (LD 1740), *An Act to Protect a Patient's Access to Affordable Health Care with Timely Access to Health Care Prices***

Karynlee summarized the requirements in Part B, §1718-I. Hospital price transparency, that impact the MHDO; and she provided a summary of the requirements in 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 180, Hospital Price Transparency. The general requirements defined in § 180.40, require a hospital to make public the following:

(a) A machine-readable file containing a list of all standard charges for all items and services as provided in § 180.50. (specific requirements defined)

(b) A consumer-friendly list of standard charges for a limited set of shoppable services as provided in § 180.60. (specific requirements defined)

Hospitals are required to update the standard charge information described in both sections listed above annually. Karynlee then reviewed a table in the presentation deck that identified the Hospital System, Hospital, links to the Machine-Readable Files and the Shoppable Services information, and the date the hospital last updated the information. Karynlee talked to the board about creating a page on the MHDO website where this information will be posted and her preliminary thoughts on the substance of a proposed rule. Karynlee also discussed the amount of data contained in the machine-readable files and how this data might be used to enhance the information reported on CompareMaine, specifically, adding the cash price. Karynlee discussed the need to secure grant funding to do the kind of work that she would like to do with these files. The board expressed support for the overall approach including leveraging the information in the machine-readable files where appropriate to enhance the information MHDO reports on relative to costs.

**Board Action:** Board votes unanimously to authorize Karynlee to initiate rulemaking (routine technical) to implement the requirements in PL 2023, Chapter 584, Section B.

Karynlee provided a tentative schedule for the public hearing and board meeting to review public comments. She will provide a status update on this work at the next board meeting.

* **Board Meeting Schedule for CY 2025**

Karynlee reviewed the proposed board meeting schedule for CY 2025.

* + February 6th
	+ April 3rd (Tentative Public Hearing & Board Meeting)
	+ June 5th
	+ September 4th
	+ December 4th

Karynlee also noted that additional meetings may be added as needed.

**Board Action:** No concerns were raised regarding the board meeting schedule.

**Public Comments**

None

**Next MHDO Board Meeting**

February 6, 2025

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.