**MHDO**

Maine Health

Data Organization

**Information │ Insight │ Improvement**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virtual Meeting

THURSDAY, February 4, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**Meeting Notes**

The virtual meeting of the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) Board of Directors began at 9:00 a.m. with the following Board members in attendance: Neil Korsen, (Chair), Joel Allumbaugh, Andy Ellis, Lisa Harvey-McPherson, Michelle Probert, David Regan, and Ronald Watson. Board members absent: Peter Gore, Anne Head, and Sandra Parker. Also participating were Karynlee Harrington, Executive Director and Deanna White, Agency Assistant Attorney General.

**Chair Report**

Dr. Korsen opened the virtual meeting with introductions and a review of the voting protocol for virtual meetings. The board reviewed and voted unanimously to approve as drafted the October 1, 2020 board meeting notes. Neil shared with the board that there were no updates on the status of MHDO board appointments. He also encouraged board members whose terms have expired to continue to serve on the board until replaced.

**Executive Director Report-refer to meeting deck for details on topics summarized below:**

1. **Rulemaking Timeline for Non-Claims Based Payments**

Karynlee reviewed with the board the timeline for developing MHDO’s new rule for defining and collecting non-claims based primary care provider payments. The plan is for the board to hold a public hearing on the new proposed rule September 2, 2021 before the MHDO board meeting. The Board agreed to add a meeting in October 2021 to review public comments, agency responses; and to consider adoption of the proposed rule.

1. **APCD Federal Grant Opportunity**

Karynlee reviewed section 320B in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, that impacts the State All Payer Claims Databases. States can receive up to $2.5 million in grant funding to establish a new APCD or improve an existing APCD. Grant funding is over a three-year period and to be eligible, states must "ensure uniform data collection”. When a state accepts grant funding there are several requirements regarding access to APCD data and standard reporting that the APCD must produce. Karynlee also brought to the boards attention the language in this section that includes the establishment of an advisory committee and its role. Karynlee will share details as they become available. In the interim, she reported that she is seeking feedback from data submitters and data users, staff, and other interested stakeholders regarding potential improvements that can be made to MHDO’s APCD, which will help inform the grant application.

1. **Contract with MHDO’s Data Vendor**

Karynlee discussed with the board the overlap in timelines specific to the MHDO contract termination with HSRI and the new federal grant opportunity. She stressed the importance of the goal to maximize the federal grant opportunity of $2.5M to enhance our current APCD and minimize disruption for our data submitters (payers and hospitals), data users, and for MHDO’s mandated reporting requirements. Karynlee went on to say that she discussed with the State’s Chief Procurement Officer the option of extending the current contract with HSRI for an additional three years to achieve the goal stated. The Procurement officer supports the request, subject to the approval of the State Procurement Review Committee. Karynlee asked the board for authorization to move forward with formally requesting procurement to consider and approve an amendment to MHDO’s current contract with HSRI for an additional three years. The board unanimously supported the request with the understanding that MHDO needs to be prepared to release an RFP if procurement does not approve the request.

1. **CompareMaine Version 9.0**

Karynlee reminded the board that version 9.0 of CompareMaine was released in December 2020. The cost data (defined as payments to providers) in this release is for the period of April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020. There are 260 procedures on the site and 320 facilities. In addition, the Top 25 Rx Reports have been updated for the period of July 2019 - June 2020. Karynlee is working with the team on developing the work plan for CompareMaine 10.0 which is scheduled for release in December 2021.

1. **MOU between MHDO and DHHS**

Karynlee summarized for the board the purpose and the key deliverables described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between MHDO and Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). She stated that the purpose is for MHDO to develop a provider database that will support the department’s service locator tool. Karynlee went on to provide an overview of the MHDO provider database and stated that the provider database will support the management of healthcare provider information in a directory structure. Included in the meeting deck is a visual of the hierarchal relationships that will be included in the structure. The provider database will be a resource that supports not just the service locator tool, but a broader community of data users. MHDO has been discussing the development of a provider database with its data user group for several years and will continue to seek feedback from this key stakeholder group on the broader needs.

1. **Public Law Chapter 668, *An Act To Protect Consumers from Surprise Emergency Medical Bills &* Impact on MHDO**

Karynlee reviewed in detail the requirements of this law, specific to the MHDO as defined in Section 2. 2., and discussed the data limitations regarding the identification of a provider being in or out of a payer’s network. She reminded the board that in October the board adopted a change in Rule Chapter 243, the rule that governs the submission of payer data, that includes a data element for the payer to identify the provider as in or out of network provider. However, the inclusion of this new data element is beginning with January 2021 claims data submissions. Karynlee reported to the board that she has had several conversations with the Bureau of Insurance and the commercial payers to discuss alternative approaches to compliance in the absence of the availability of the in-network data element in the claims data prior to 2021. She went on to report on LD 46, *An Act To Further Protect Consumers from Surprise Medical Bills.* She will continue to update the board as the legislative process unfolds and if any additional clarification is provided by the BOI.

1. **Status of Rx Reports, PL Chapters 406 & 470**

Karynlee reviewed with the board the different prescription drug data sets that MHDO collects; and the prescription drug reporting requirements as described in PL Chapter 406 and Chapter 470. Karynlee summarized the focus of the first annual report as required by Chapter 470, as describing the entities in the pharmaceutical supply chain, their roles, and the financial transactions that occur within the supply chain using both MHDO prescription drug claims data and drug pricing component data. She went on to say that there are significant limitations in the current law with what can and cannot be included in the report. Hopefully, over time there may be some changes to the current reporting restrictions as well as a greater focus on understanding the pricing of the costliest and most utilized drugs in Maine based on the reports required in PL chapter 406. She asked the board for feedback on the draft report that she e-mailed earlier in the week. The board agreed that the report should include an executive summary, highlighting the key findings in this first year of data collection. There was also a discussion about including more data visualizations in the year 2 report. Karynlee asked the board for their authorization to release the report to the Legislature as soon as possible once the executive summary is added and after Deanna White’s final review of the report for any legal concerns. The Board gave the requested authorization.

1. **Legislative Session**

Karynlee reviewed the following topics in detail. Refer to meeting deck.

* Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services (HCIFS) Committee Membership
* LR’s/LD’s of Interest to MHDO
* Briefing on public hearing before HCIFS LD 41 (Chapter 570, Uniform Reporting System for Prescription Drug Price Data Sets, a major substantive rule of the MHDO)

1. **Maine Quality Forum (MQF)**

Karynlee reviewed the following topics in detail. Refer to meeting deck.

* MQF MOU with DHHS, Maine-CDC
* Primary Care Spending in State of Maine, 2021 Annual Report

**Public Comments**

None

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.