

**MINUTES**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

151 CAPITOL STREET

AUGUSTA, MAINE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

The meeting of the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) Board of Directors began at

9:10 a.m. with the following Board members present: Neil Korsen, (Chair), Anne Head

(Vice-Chair), Joel Allumbaugh, Lisa Harvey-McPherson, Anita Knopp, Sandy Parker, and

David Regan. Absent members were: Andy Ellis, Peter Gore, and Colin McHugh. Also in attendance were Karynlee Harrington, Acting Executive Director and Deanna White, Agency Assistant Attorney General.

The Board meeting began with introductions of its members. Ron Watson, DC, a nominee of

the Maine Chiropractic Association to fill its upcoming chiropractic vacancy on the board was a guest at the meeting. Katherine Pelletreau, Director of the Maine Association Health Plans was present via telephone.

**Chair Report**

Vote to approve Board minutes - A motion was made and seconded to accept the June 1, 2017 MHDO Board minutes as written. Motion carried.

Status of Board appointments - Neil reviewed the list of appointments that the Board received

from staff (see handout). Anne stated that when submitting nominations to the Governor’s Office

it is important for the designated affiliation, if applicable, to provide more than one nominee for consideration.

Review of June 1 2017 Board Retreat Meeting Notes - Neil summarized the key highlights from

the June retreat documented in the meeting notes.

**Executive Director Report**

LD 445 Update - *An Act to Encourage Maine Consumers to Comparison Shop for Certain Health Care Procedures and to Lower Health Care Costs* is now law and does impact the MHDO. Karynlee reviewed the provisions that specifically impact MHDO that she is working with her team to implement. Karynlee will also reach out to Katherine Pelletreau with the Maine Association of Health Plans to discuss the potential opportunity to collaborate with the health plans and will report back as things progress.

LD 1406 and LD 1605 Update - Karynlee explained that both bills were about prescription drugs and consumer protection. Neither bill passed but one was carried forward to be considered

during the next legislative session. The bills would have required the MHDO to provide data to

the Attorney General’s Office. A stakeholder group has been convened and Karynlee has been

asked to serve as a technical data resource on the group.

**Guest Presentation (MHDO Data User)**

Abbot Willard, Project Director at the Institute for Health Policy and Practice at the University of New Hampshire highlighted the work he and is colleagues are doing using MHDO medical claims data. The Institute for Health Policy and Practice at the University of New Hampshire is working with the Northern New England Practice Transformation Network (NNE-PTN) which is a collaboration of quality improvement organizations in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are providing support to physician practices in all three states to help the practices achieve sustainable practice transformation to reach the Triple Aim. The analysis the university is doing involves the development of four new claims based practice measures and the designing of a portal for all practices to access claims based reports for quality improvement monitoring and benchmarking.

The project is funded by CMS. Mr. Willard provided a demo of the portal and discussed how the data had been prepared focusing at this time on the Medicare population in Maine. He explained the three groups who use the data: 1. Maine Quality Counts - PTN vs non-PTN to report to CMS; 2. Practice coaches/coordinators involved with the network; and 3. the practices themselves.

**Acting Executive Director Report**

Review Comments and Proposed Responses to Rule Chapter 241: Uniform Reporting of Hospital Inpatient Data Sets and Hospital Outpatient Data Sets - Karynlee reviewed the submitted comments, the staff responses, and the suggested recommendations. After some discussion, the Board approved the recommendations, agreeing to modify the definition of Hospital Outpatient Data in Section 1 G, as discussed. See *Final Comments and Responses* at: <https://mhdo.maine.gov/>).

Vote to adopt Rule Chapter 241: Uniform Reporting of Hospital Inpatient Data Sets and Hospital Outpatient Data Sets - A motion was made to adopt Chapter 241 with the agreed upon revision and to authorize Karynlee to sign the MAPA-1 form pending final approval from the AG’s office. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Review proposed changes to MHDO DUA for State Entities - Karynlee reminded the board that the Agency’s policy is that the language in the MHDO’s Data Use Agreement cannot be customized. However, she went on to explain that it has come to her attention that the Hold Harmless provision in Section 5 of the MHDO DUA as currently written violates state statues specific to indemnification and hold harmless. If MHDO is going to continue to work with State entities the MHDO needs to revise the language in this section- only for state entities. The board agreed that we want to continue to make our data available to state entities (like universities) and therefore directed Karynlee to work with Deanna to develop language and to reach out to the interested parties as appropriate and report back at the December board meeting.

Status of CompareMaine 4.0 Release - Karynlee reviewed the status of the CompareMaine 4.0 release which has been delayed because of an issue with the MEG grouper used for surgical procedures not being updated for ICD-10. The team is working with Truven to address this issue. If all goes as planned the new release date will be mid-October.

Status of APCD Post Gobeille - As discussed at the retreat the team has created a file of de-identified member ID’s that users can access if they want to flag or remove de-identified individuals from their 2015 data (and some 2016 data) so that the data sets pre Gobeille and post Gobeille are better aligned. The team is working with the data users to discuss how best to manage this effort going forward as well as considering putting a flag in the claims file release to identify these users so they can be deleted from the users’ analysis.

Status of Federal Rule 42 CFR Part 2 - The status is that payers are using their own filters to remove data that they feel is subject to the new rule. Unfortunately, there is not a consistent interpretation of the rule and some payers are removing more claims data than what the rule intended. Karynlee is continuing her conversations at a national level and plans to attend a SIM meeting on September 20th where a representative from SAMSHA will join to discuss this rule. The annual NAHDO meeting is being held early October and Karynlee is speaking at the session regarding this issue. Representatives from SAMSHA will also be there. Karynlee will provide an update to the board in December.

Status of Upcoming Data Releases - MHDO plans to release our next update of claims data the first week of October. We are anticipating releasing quarter 1, 2017 hospital inpatient data in October as well-this will be the first release of hospital data that is quarterly.

Status of MHDO & MQF electronic newsletter and website - We are in the process of creating a joint quarterly e-newsletter. The newsletter will highlight points of interest for both agencies.

Compliance Issue - Karynlee informed the Board of an issue the Agency is working through with one of its data submitters, Health Spring (Cigna owned company). Health Spring is having problems submitting their Medicare Part D data. If action does not occur before the end of the year, the board may need to consider levying a fine. Karynlee plans to speak with Katherine Pelletreau with the Maine Association of Health Plans to see if she can assist in the matter. Karynlee will report back to the Board in December with an update.

**Maine Quality Forum (MQF)**

Status of MQF 2017 Annual Report Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) in Maine - Due to data quality issues at NHSN, the federal repository for the collection of HAI hospital data, the development of the 2017 annual report has been delayed and will be combined with the 2018 report.

Update from HAI Collaborating Partners August 25, 2017 meeting - The group is working on a potential set of recommendations specific to collecting infection rates for knee and hip replacements. More to come. The MQF Board of Trustees met in August and will work on updating legislation regarding the composition of the board to better reflect the focus of the MQF.

**Public Comment**

Katherine Pelletreau thanked the Board for their comment on Cigna/Health Spring and stated that she will follow up with Karynlee on their data submission.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.