**MHDO**

Maine Health

Data Organization

**Information │ Insight │ Improvement**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virtual Meeting

THURSDAY, July 29, 2021

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

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: Dr. Neil Korsen (Chair), Joel Allumbaugh, Andy Ellis, Lisa Harvey-McPherson, Michelle Probert, David Regan, and Ronald Watson. Board members absent: Peter Gore and Anne Head. 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 May 6, 2021 meeting notes with one correction, removing Lisa’s name from the list of board members in attendance at the May 6th meeting. The notes accurately reflect that she was absent for the May 6 meeting. Neil thanked the members of the board for attending today’s meeting which was not expected but necessary to comply with a new state law regarding agencies adopting a policy regarding public proceedings and remote participation. Neil then asked Karynlee for her report.

**Executive Director Report-**

**Refer to Meeting Presentation which can be found here:** [**https://mhdo.maine.gov/boardMtngs.htm**](https://mhdo.maine.gov/boardMtngs.htm) **for details on topics summarized below:**

**Review and Approve MHDO’s Proposed Policy on Remote Participation in Public Proceedings**

As previously communicated in an e-mail to the board with a copy of the draft policy, Public Law Chapter 290, *An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings*, is the reason why Karynlee and Deanna drafted a policy for the boards consideration, that governs the conditions upon which MHDO board members and the public may participate in a public proceeding of the MHDO Board of Directors by remote methods. After a review of the draft policy and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the policy as drafted. There was a recommendation that additional language be added in Section 4, **Miscellaneous** regarding documenting in the record (meeting notes) whether the public proceeding was held in person, remote or a hybrid of in person and remote; and will identify each member of the board as either present, in person, or remote. A revised motion was made to include this additional language in Section 4. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Summary of New Laws that Impact MHDO -130th First Regular Legislative Session**

Karynlee summarized the following new laws that will impact MHDO when they become effective October 18, 2021:

* LD 41, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 570, Uniform Reporting System for Prescription Drug Price Data Sets, a major substantive rule of the MHDO
* LD 686, An Act to Increase Prescription Drug Price Transparency
* LD 541, An Act to Improve Health Care Data Analysis
* LD 274, Resolve, Directing the Maine Health Data Organization To Determine the Best Methods and Definitions To Use in Collecting Data To Better Understand Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Provision of Health Care in Maine
* LD 46, An Act to Further Protect Consumers on Surprise Medical Bills
* LD 120, An Act to Lower Health Care Costs through the establishment of the Office of Affordable Health Care
* LD 1392, An Act Directing the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention To Release Annually Public Health Data Regarding Certain Fatalities and Hospitalizations

**Review the Status & Timeline of Proposed Rulemaking**

Karynlee reviewed the set of rules that are scheduled for the Board’s Public Hearing planned for September 2, 2021. Rule Chapter 243, *Uniform Reporting System for Health Care Claims Data Sets;* Rule Chapter 241, *Uniform Reporting System for Hospital Inpatient Data Sets and Hospital Outpatient Data Sets*; and the Agency’s new rule, *Uniform Reporting System For Non-Claims Based Payment Data.* At the November 4, 2021 board meeting, the board will review public comments received on these proposed changes and staff’s responses. If all is in order the board will consider adoption at the November 4, 2021 meeting.

Karynlee reviewed the set of rules that are scheduled for the Board’s Public Hearing planned for November 4, 2021. Rule Chapter 120, Release *of Data to the Public* (major substantive rule; must submit to Legislature by January 14, 2022, for their review and consideration); and the Agency’s new rule, *Interagency Reporting of Cancer-Incidence Registry and Vital Statistics Data*

At the December 2, 2021 board meeting, the board will review public comments received on these proposed changes and staff’s responses. If all is in order the board will consider provisional/final adoption at the December 2, 2021 meeting.

**Proposed Board Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of 2021**

Karynlee reviewed the board meeting schedule for the remainder of the calendar year. Several board members raised concerns regarding their availability for the September 2, 2021 public hearing and board meeting. The decision was made that Karynlee will work with the board to find an alternative date in September for the public hearing followed by a board meeting.

**Maine Quality Forum (MQF)**

Karynlee reported that MQF is working on the 3rd annual report on Primary Care Spending in the State of Maine as required by Public Law Chapter 24. MQF plans to reconvene the Advisory Group in the fall. She reminded the board that the report is due to the Legislature and Commissioner of DHHS in January 2022. Karynlee summarized project Firstline, the Federal CDC’s infection control training collaborative, which is designed to help every frontline healthcare worker gain the knowledge and confidence to stop infections. MQF is providing the technical support to the Maine CDC. Muskie is supporting the MQF in this effort. Karynlee discussed the release of the Learning Needs Assessment and the new content that has been added to the Infection Prevention Forum, our online learning modules for healthcare and direct care professionals.

**Public Comments**

None

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.