

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
151 CAPITOL STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013

The meeting of the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) Board of Directors began at 9:10 a.m., immediately following a Public Hearing on Chapter 241: Uniform Reporting on Hospital Inpatient Datasets and Hospital Outpatient Datasets. The following Board members were present: Katherine Pelletreau, (Chair), Anne Head, (Vice-Chair), Poppy Arford, Mike DeLorenzo, Andy Ellis, Maryagnes Gillman, Lisa Harvey-McPherson, Tom Hopkins, Anita Knopp, Jim Leonard, and Dave Winslow. Neil Korsen attended by phone, and Peter Gore was absent. Also in attendance were Karynlee Harrington, Acting Executive Director and Deanna White, Agency Assistant Attorney General.

Chair Report

Vote to approve Board minutes - A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 5, 2013 MHDO Board minutes as written. Motion carried.

Status of PHI Proposal – The Chair reported that the Governor’s office has approved the PHI proposal. The proposal has been submitted to the revisors office. Next step once the proposal comes back from the revisor is to secure a legislative sponsor. The Chair asked the Board members to think about who in the legislature may be interested.

External Board Communications – The Chair acknowledged that many of the board members interact with the legislature as required by their day job. Ms. Pelletreau reminded the Board that formal communication with the legislature on behalf of the MHDO is from the Chair as authorized by the board and the Executive Director.

Acting Executive Director Report

Project Management Report

General Agency Operations - Karynlee Harrington reviewed the status of the critical projects defined by the Board. Refer to Project Status Report handout.

Transformation Activity - Karynlee reviewed the status of the key activities in the first phase of the transformation effort, stating that the ETL is operational. Refer to the Transformation Project Status handout.

Review of Transformation deliverables and timeline for next 12 months - Karynlee updated the Board on an all-day meeting she and her team had with HSRI and NORC to discuss the work plan for the next 12 months. She distributed the MHDO Transformation Timeline through October 2014, which she reviewed with the Board.

A discussion ensued on the possibility that there might be a delay with the next release of claims data. It was decided that a project update will be sent to core users and a notice will be posted on the MHDO web site.

There was a discussion about the timing to moving to a subscription model for data access. Karynlee recommended that moving to the subscription model is dependent on the self-service model and access through the portal-which is scheduled to be operational in late 2014-2015. As such a recommendation was made to extend the moratorium on fee waivers.

Karynlee distributed the work plan that was submitted to the US DHHS/CMS in the health cost transparency grant; showing timeframes and deliverables. The project abstract that was submitted with the health cost transparency grant was also distributed and discussed. Ms. Harrington will brief the Board monthly on progress and bring forward policy decisions that the Board will need to provide direction on.

Legislative Commission to Study Transparency – Karynlee was asked to attend the first commission meeting as one of the panelist. She briefed the Board on the overview she gave the Commission and the general discussion and next steps. Karynlee will send the link where the meeting materials for the Commission are being posted.

Data Infrastructure Subcommittee (DIS) - The Board received a handout outlining the work of this SIM committee. Karynlee informed the Board that the first meetings of the DIS were in the process of being scheduled. Karynlee will brief the board on the content of these discussions.

Access to more timely Medicare Data - Karynlee stated that she has submitted an inquiry on receiving 2012 Medicare data and the first two quarters of 2013 data. She should receive pricing information soon and if the price isn't significantly higher than the annual pricing, based on the data users' needs, she will begin accessing the data on a quarterly basis.

Board member Arford apprised the Board of a Massachusetts law, passed in 2012: Chapter 224 "An Act Improving the Quality of Healthcare Through Increased Transparency, Efficiency and Innovation". She specifically cited Sections 36 and 37

that relate to carrier cost transparency requirements. The legislation can be found online at: <https://malegislature.gov/laws/sessionlaws/acts/2012/Chapter224>.

Board member Leonard provided an update on the SIM grant and he informed the Board that the Federal government has approved the operational plan that Maine submitted. He also stated that the SIM subcommittees are beginning to develop.

Karynlee distributed a handout regarding the Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI), who has partnered with the state of Vermont to compare health care spending in Vermont against national spending benchmarks. The state of Vermont has contacted the MHDO regarding a data exchange, which Karynlee will pursue and update the Board as she receives additional information.

MQF Advisory Council Update

Karynlee distributed a copy of the agenda for a recent Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Subcommittee meeting and gave the Board a brief overview of its members and the role of the committee. She stated that in the last budget the legislature approved a DHA- MQF budget through the biennial.

Public Comment

Mike Brannigan, Anthem asked for a status update on the MHDO/HIN study and the status of the MHDO releasing patient identifiable data. Karynlee informed him that the feasibility study is complete. The final report can be found on the MHDO web site. She stated that the proposed protected health information legislation would allow the MHDO to internally de-identify the data received and will allow for the release of this data if the data request meets the defined criteria for releasing protected health information.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.