

**Maine Quality Forum  
Advisory Council**

**Friday, April 14, 2006  
Summative Minutes of Meeting**

Members present: Jonathan Beal, Rebecca Colwell, Dr. Robert Keller, Dr. Robert McArtor, Charles Morrison, Daniel Roet, David White, and Dr. Janice Wnek. Maureen Booth of the Muskie School of Public Service and Dr. Dennis Shubert were also present.

Chair Rebecca Colwell called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

**Minutes**

The Council approved March's meeting minutes.

**Old Business**

**CON/MQF**

Dr. Shubert reminded the Council of the role of MQF in the Certificate of Need (CON) process: to review the past quality of care provided by applicants along with the application's potential effect on utilization. He discussed the need for MQF to balance the numerous paradoxes inherent in the healthcare system (e.g. maintain very specific performance metrics yet avoid individual or team blame).

Dr. Shubert then shared a draft MQF framework for CON applications; the framework will inform applicants about the aspects of quality that MQF intends to review in applications. These aspects include: safety (as indicated by references to consensus standards); timeliness, efficiency, equity, effectiveness, and patient-centeredness (as evidenced by references to quality metrics); structure (e.g. technology, physical structure); process; outcome; accreditation; and leadership. The document is freely available and will be posted on the MQF website. Dr. Shubert asked that Council members contact him with any recommended changes to the document. Ms. Colwell suggested that more information be provided about process, outcome, accreditation, and leadership.

The Council discussed Dr. Shubert's decision to provide quality metrics and data to the Certificate of Need Unit in response to applications, as opposed to offering an explicit recommendation about each application.

**Collaborator Updates:**

***NQF***

Dr. Shubert reported that Janet Corrigan of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), is the new CEO of the National Quality Forum (NQF) and

has merged NCQA and NQF into one organization. Strategic planning for the reconstituted NQF is currently underway.

### **Quality Counts**

Dr. Shubert explained that Quality Counts, which is now a dues organization, has asked MQF to become a dues-paying member. MQF supported Quality Counts 2 and 3, and currently supports a practice assessment program for which Quality Counts is building a learning network to connect providers who have successfully completed the program with others. The Council unanimously agreed that MQF should become a dues-paying member at a level to be negotiated with the Dirigo Health Agency Executive Director.

### **State Snapshot 2004 & AHRQ Quality Disparities**

Dr. Shubert noted that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently released data on Maine's ranking on selected quality measures as part of the *2005 National Healthcare Quality Report*. Additionally, ARHQ released its *2005 National Healthcare Disparities Report*, which shows disparities in healthcare quality and access for low-income individuals and minorities.

### **Legislative Update**

Dr. Shubert reported that he testified before the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee in support of LD 2097 "An Act To Facilitate the Maine Quality Forum." LD 2097 allows the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority to provide bonded capital funding for a health information network; LD 2097 also protects provider specific data MQF receives from all sources until MQF verifies the accuracy of the data. LD 2097, as amended, has full HHS Committee support. Dr. Shubert noted that the Maine Hospital Association and Maine Osteopathic Association, among other organizations, were very helpful in moving this legislation forward.

Dr. Shubert also reported on Chapter 70 of DHA Procedure Manual, which outlines the MQF processes for vetting and reporting data analyses.

### **Cardiac Project**

Dr. Shubert noted that a newspaper insert with MQF's Annual Report to the people of Maine will be in all Maine newspapers Sunday, April 16; he reminded the Council that while most people recognize the symptoms of a heart attack, they do not call 911.

Dr. Shubert updated the Council on the progress of MQF's cardiac project, which is called "In a Heartbeat." The first meeting for this project was held on Tuesday, April 11; approximately 60 people attended, representing Emergency Medical Services (EMS), hospitals, and heart programs. MQF will be forming a leadership group of cardiologists, hospital administrators, EMS representatives, and emergency department physicians to steer the In a Heartbeat project. Additionally, MQF will form a data group that will be tasked with determining what data will be collected for the project.

### **New Business**

### **Dr. Merry Presentation**

Dr. Martin Merry, Senior Advisor for Medical Affairs at the New Hampshire Hospital Association and Foundation and Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor of Health Management and Policy at the University of New Hampshire, provided a presentation entitled “The Future of Community Health Care: Our First-to-Second Curve Journey.” Dr. Merry outlined and discussed four hypotheses:

- The Institute of Medicine’s *To Err is Human* symbolized the “beginning of the end of an era.”
- Our health care system is locked into first curve training.
- The second curve health care system is well underway.
- Maine can take the lead in second curve health care and be successful.

Dr. Merry stated that today’s health care system is based on a pre-industrial craft-based (first curve) culture and must move to a systems-based (or second curve) culture; this move will transition the health care system from a hierarchical culture of blame to a team model designed around patients’ needs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.