

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
151 CAPITOL STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014

The meeting of the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) Board of Directors began at 9:05 a.m. with the following Board members present: Lisa Harvey-McPherson, (Chair), Poppy Arford, Mike DeLorenzo, Andy Ellis, Peter Gore, Tom Hopkins (via phone), Anita Knopp, Neil Korsen, Jim Leonard, Katherine Pelletreau, and Dave Winslow. Absent members were: Anne Head (Vice-Chair) and Maryagnes Gillman. Also in attendance were Karynlee Harrington, Acting Executive Director and Deanna White, Agency Assistant Attorney General.

Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00am.

Business of the Board:

Board Vote to Ratify Chapter 120 - Karynlee confirmed that the proposed new data release rule had been revised based on the direction provided at the October 23 MHDO Board meeting. Additionally, Ms. Harrington reminded the board of an issue that she caught after the October 23 board meeting which she communicated via e-mail to the Board and interested parties specific to the issue of addressing audited financial statements in the rule. Bottom line by including the audited financial statements in Level II data releases public comment on the request will continue to be provided.

There was a motion and a second to approve the revisions as presented. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on Chapter 120: Release of Data to the Public was held. Refer to transcript.

Karynlee informed the board that the Agency will be submitting technical revisions which will be part of the record and written comments. The timeline and next steps in the process was also discussed and Karynlee reminded the Board that the legislature could possibly reject taking up the proposed rule in this session since it will be submitted after the January 9th deadline.-unlikely but a possibility.

Chair Report

Vote to approve Board minutes - A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 4, October 2, and October 23, 2014 MHDO Board minutes as written. Motion carried.

Update on Board Appointments - Lisa informed the Board that there are potential representatives to fill the vacant Maine Hospital Association and consumer seats. Peter Gore and Andy Ellis both stated that they will seek reappointment. Mike DeLorenzo informed the Board that he will be retiring in April 2015 and that the Maine Health Management Coalition has a replacement in mind. The list of the Board members' terms will be updated and distributed.

Schedule next Board Meeting - Due to the holiday, the January Board meeting will not be held on the first Thursday of the month but instead on Thursday, January 8, 2015.

Subcommittee Report

The Subcommittee addressing Phase II of LD 1740 had its first meeting and established a work plan to accomplish their charge over the next few months. Three additional meetings will be held with a goal of reporting out a recommendation to the full Board in March 2015.

Acting Executive Director Report

Chapter 270 Issue: Hospital Health Care Quality Data set (section 2, page 4 of the rule) – Karynlee reminded the Board that last year's changes to Chapter 270 included the definition of a measure steward which was included as a way to reach the goal of aligning with national standards when appropriate and to reduce redundancy. Nine SCIP measures collected by CMS have "topped off" so CMS will stop collecting these measures. Karynlee looked at the data for the nine SCIP measures specific to Maine Hospitals and in many cases Maine hospitals have "topped off." There are some outliers but overall Maine hospitals are in the high 90's. Consistent with CMS, Karynlee recommended to the Board that they no longer enforce the collection of the SCIP measures that are defined in Chapter 270 effective January 1, 2015. She mentioned that other measures may be added.

After much discussion amongst the board members a motion was made and seconded to suspend enforcement of the collection in Chapter 270 Section 2 SCIP measures beginning January 1, 2015, consistent with CMS. Another lengthy discussion ensued regarding whether or not these measures are being used by SIM. Karynlee will follow up with the leadership of SIM regarding these measures and whether or not they will be needed and will report back to the board in an e-mail ASAP. The motion carried with six members in favor, four in opposition, and 1 abstention the motion carried.

Karynlee informed the Board that staff member Tom Seger has given his notice and will be leaving the OIT/MHDO as of the end of the year to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. Karynlee stated that Tom's contributions over the years have been tremendous and that he will be missed. She also shared with the board that she has been working with Tom and the HSRI/NORC team on a transition plan and although she feels good about the transition to date she is aware that there will be some bumps along the way. She will continue to communicate proactively and is looking forward to the opportunity this transition creates in terms of restructuring several of the processes in an effort to seek efficiencies.

Access to 2014 Medicare Data Update - Karynlee informed the Board that the request has been made to CMS to access the 2014 Medicare data on a quarterly cycle similar to the 2013 quarterly cycle.

Project Management Report

Upcoming Data Release Status - The third quarter 2014 claims data is on target to be released during the week of January 5, 2015. It is anticipated that the 2013 inpatient data will be released later in the month of January and 2013 outpatient in February.

The Agency is reinstating the compliance policy on hospital inpatient and outpatient encounter data. Hospitals will begin receiving e-mail notifications from the MHDO and Databay regarding their missing data.

Transformation Progress - A transformation timeline was sent to the Board and a high level discussion ensued. Please refer to handout.

HealthCost - At the January or February Board meeting Karynlee will have some recommendations on branding HealthCost. In addition NORC is working with CMS in regard to price transparency and quality data which has been informative in our discussions. Integrating quality data with cost data at a procedure of service level is a significant challenge. More to come as the team continues to work through the issues and develop a recommendation.

Transparency Grant - Karynlee informed the Board that she had a call the previous day with the feds regarding the progress of the Agency to date. The feedback from the discussion was that the Feds are pleased with the progress that Maine is making as reported in our quarterly progress reports and they are interested in our new proposed data release rule and the discussions of the subcommittee on Phase II of LD 1740.

MONAHRQ - The upgrade from 2.0 to 5.0 has been completed and a test link will be sent to the Board, the Consumer Advisory Group, and to hospital contacts. Internal discussion with MONAHRQ regarding the next version 6.0 has begun. The feds are interested in our feedback and in working with us as they plan for version 6.0. Karynlee will keep Board apprised as this unfolds.

A Board member asked for an update on LD 1760 that directed patients to the MHDO web site. This will be put on a future agenda as well as a status report on the posters that were created in partnership with the MMA to display MHDO web site information. .

MQF Advisory Council Update

Due to time constraints the issue was tabled.

Public Comment

Amy Landry, HealthInfoNet (HIN) offered to work with the MHDO on the Master Provider Index. Karynlee indicated that she had been trying to connect with Dev and Shaun on a number of issues this being one of the issues. She extended the invitation to HIN to participate in an upcoming call with a vendor that may have a potential solution.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.