



STATE OF MAINE
DIRIGO HEALTH AGENCY
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JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

KARYNLEE HARRINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nancy Brain, Executive Director
Sam L. Cohen Foundation
P. O. Box 1123
Portland, Maine 04104

March 1, 2010

Dear Nancy:

The attached application, *Building the Patient Centered Medical Home to Improve Care & Outcomes, A Proposal to Evaluate the Maine Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot*, describes the Dirigo Health Agency's request to the Sam L. Cohen Foundation for \$50,000 to support evaluation of this important project investigating the potential of primary care practices to embrace and effect the changes necessary for the delivery of more effective primary care.

The Maine Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Pilot is an innovative effort to work with Maine primary care practices to improve their delivery of patient-centered care, while working with payers to provide a new payment model to these practices that will support their efforts to deliver more effective, efficient, and accessible care. The 3-year Pilot, convened by the Dirigo health Agency's Maine Quality Forum, *Quality Counts*, and the Maine Health Management Coalition, is working with 26 primary care practices from across the State of Maine that collectively provide care to over 170,000 patients. The ultimate goal of the Pilot is to sustain and revitalize primary care to improve health outcomes for all Maine people and to reduce overall healthcare costs.

The conveners of the Maine PCMH Pilot have secured initial funding for core operations of the Pilot, and are now seeking addition funding to support a comprehensive evaluation of this initiative. Evaluation of the Pilot is critical to answering key questions, such as whether moving to a PCMH model of care improves key outcomes such as patient experience of care, clinical quality, and cost and efficiency of care. While evidence from around the globe shows that health systems that provide better access to primary care services deliver higher quality and lower cost care, much remains to be learned about the impact and feasibility of implementing the PCMH model in smaller, rural practices such as many of those in the Maine PCMH Pilot.

The Maine PCMH Pilot seeks to conduct a comprehensive evaluation to address whether pilot practices deliver care that achieves better outcomes and is more cost efficient and how participating practices change their practice operations in order to become effective medical homes. Our request is for funds in order to accomplish this evaluation.

More detail regarding the project and the evaluation methods is contained in the application. We appreciate the invitation to submit this application and look forward to your assessment.

Sincerely,

D. Joshua Cutler, M.D.
Director, Maine Quality Forum