

Maine Quality Forum Subcommittee on HAI
 Dirigo Health Agency, Maine Quality Forum

Minutes of the Subcommittee's first meeting
June 24, 2013 at the Dirigo Health Agency Conference Room

Members in attendance: Stephen Sears, Karynlee Harrington, Peg Shore, Kathy Day, Mitchell Stein, Holly Harmon, Rick Danforth, Kim Loeschner, Stuart Bratesman (staff)

Dr. Sears called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

Dr. Sears opened the meeting by introducing a chart displaying the different organizations that play key roles in infection prevention:

Maine Legislature (Chapter 270)					
MHDO & MQF	Maine CDC HAI Program		MIP & MIPC infection preventionists		QIO
APIC	SHEA	MEHCA (LTC)	MHA	MMA	MOA
UNE Pharmacy		Micro Labs (HETL)		Hospitals	

Kathy Day suggested, and it was agreed, that the staff prepare a [definition of acronyms](#).

Karynlee Harrington reviewed the [Subcommittee's charge](#) and said that the MQF Advisory Council had been very supportive of this new effort to bring a variety of parties to the table.

Peg Shore said the Subcommittee would provide a public discussion forum to present valuable input about on-going activities, suggestions for new approaches, an exchange of ideas about the metrics we collect, and an evaluation of the collection and use of specific HAI quality indicators.

Dr. Sears noted that up until the recent past, infection prevention efforts did not reside in public health, but rather in each individual hospital and long term care facility. In 2009, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (the ARRA or Stimulus Act) provided funds to encourage the coordination of infection prevent efforts through state public health authorities. However, Maine's Dirigo Health and the Maine Quality Forum pre-dated and pioneered the ARRA-sponsored coordination approach.

Mitchell Stein, Dr. Sears, Kathy Day, Holly Harmon and other members discussed the importance of shifting new attention to outpatient overuse of antibiotics to slow the emergence of new resistant disease agents. Dr. Sears stressed the need to coordinate different efforts.

Peg Shore introduced the [HAI Annual Report](#) and narrated a PowerPoint overview of [Maine's infection prevention activities](#).

The Subcommittee discussed the burdens of data collection. Dr. Sears expressed concern at the high turnover rates among hospital infection prevention coordinators, and that amount of effort required to collect data could impinge on efforts to prevent infection.

Karynlee Harrington highlighted the process to make changes in the list of quality indicators collected by the State. The MQF Advisory Council makes recommendations to the MHDO Board. The MHDO holds a public hearing and votes on which recommendations to forward to the Legislature. The Legislature then holds its own public hearing and votes on what changes to enact. Over time, there has been a shift in emphasis from process measures to outcome measures.

Dr. Sears said that this first meeting of the new Subcommittee had provided a general overview and he expected that future meetings would dive into greater detail.

Karynlee Harrington hoped that the Subcommittee would produce ideas on how to convey HAI information to a broader audience of consumers.

Kathy Day suggested, and the group informally agreed, that future meetings should extend to more than one-and-a-half hours.

Karynlee Harrington announced that the Subcommittee members would be surveyed on-line to determine the best date for the next meeting in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.