

## **Advisory Council on Health Systems Development Discusses National Health Care Reform's initial assessment of impact and opportunities for Maine**

On Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> the Advisory Council on Health Systems Development discussed the federal healthcare reform law and assessed its initial impact on the state and the potential opportunities it presents.

Robert Seifert, Center for Health Law & Economics, University of Massachusetts Medical School, and Trish Riley presented information on the initial assessment of impact and opportunities for Maine. They presented key aspects of the law, starting out with the comparison of ME health care today and in 2014; how health reform is funded; enhanced federal support to ME through health reform, along with the chronology of implementation, the implementation process and the integration with the state of Maine's State Health Plan. They quickly indicated that Maine's implementation infrastructure is already in place with the Governor's Office of Health Policy & Finance, the implementation of the Steering Committee, the Health Policy Committee and state agencies, the Advisory Council on Health Systems Development and stakeholders, through Dirigo and the subsidies & HRSA Voucher program and also working with the newly enacted Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Opportunities and Implementation. For more information, go to:

[http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display\\_ps.asp?snum=124&paper=HP1262&PID=1456](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?snum=124&paper=HP1262&PID=1456)

For a copy of the powerpoint presentation, download a copy at [www.maine.gov/gohpf](http://www.maine.gov/gohpf). Council members expressed an interest to work with the appropriate team to develop a tool to assist all stakeholders in navigating the new health care reform legislation, the implementation timelines, understanding the roles of the State Exchange for purchase of coverage for individuals and small businesses. The Maine Medical Association was represented at the meeting by Council Members Lani Graham, MD and Maroulla Gleaton, MD.

The impact of the new law on physician practices in Maine will also be one of the primary topics at the upcoming Practice Education Seminar on May 19th at the Augusta Civic Center (see article in this issue of the Update giving more details on the Seminar).