

*****Press Release*****

**Results of a Survey of Gubernatorial Candidates on Mental Health Issues
from
Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians
For immediate release
6/5/2010**

Given the importance of mental health services and policy decisions to both the people of Maine and to the state budget, the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians (MAPP) conducted an email/Web-based survey of the current candidates for governor in Maine. All gubernatorial candidates/campaigns were contacted via email in late May and again by phone and email in early June. Ten candidates/campaigns replied to our survey. You can find the results of this survey in the separately attached full report (MAPP_Survey_Report_06.04.10.pdf).

The MAPP survey explored each gubernatorial candidate's views on

- Funding MH services and recent state budget cuts (Question 1);
- The loss of medical director positions and psychiatric input at DHHS (Question 2 and 4B);
- Reimbursement rates for services and impact on access to care for patients (Question 3);
- Leadership qualities for top DHHS administrators (Question 4);
- Availability of substance abuse treatment options, in particular, suboxone (Question 5);
- Mental health in prisons, and in particular, solitary confinement (Question 6);
- Issues or priorities for mental health if s/he becomes governor (Question 7).

MAPP received survey responses from (in alphabetical order not related to party) Bill Beardsley, Elliot Cutler, Matt Jacobson, Paul LePage, Peter Mills, Elizabeth Mitchell, Les Otten, Steven Rowe, Rosa Scarcelli and Kevin Scott.

MAPP is heartened that there was a robust response to our survey, and that the candidates for governor of Maine have given thoughtful replies to these complex issues. We appreciate how busy they are so close to the primaries and applaud them for making mental health issues a priority.

Please note that due to technical problems on MAPP's end, the responses from Paul LePage and from Rosa Scarcelli were inadvertently truncated. The candidates have been notified of this problem. MAPP will forward the complete replies from these candidates if they become available prior to the primary.

The Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians is the professional organization for psychiatry and psychiatrists in the state of Maine. Our mission is to improve the treatment, rehabilitation and care of persons with mental illnesses, to provide leadership, to advocate for patient care and for the professional interests of our members.

While MAPP is a strong advocate for people with mental illnesses, *we do not endorse or oppose any candidate for public office*. Our hope is that this survey will serve to promote more effective consideration of mental health issues here in Maine.

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