

MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION – PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chairs, Lani Graham M.D., and Norma Dreyfus M.D., Edward Walworth M.D., Richard Jennings M.D., Ann Simmons M.D., Jo Linder M.D.; Daniel Oppenheim M.D. (via phone), Paul Mazur, M.D. (via phone), Janis Petzel, M.D. (via phone)

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Manning, M.D., MaineCDC (via phone), Carol Eckert, M.D. (via phone), Jessa Barnard, Gordon Smith

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP/RESULTS
<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>Review of PHC meeting minutes</p>	<p>Dr. Graham asked for members to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Members reviewed the October 2010 Minutes.</p>	<p>Minutes of October 2010 were accepted.</p>
<p>Old Business</p> <p>Health Implications of Climate Change</p>	<p>In November, the MMA (with support from the Public Health Committee and Executive Committee) signed onto a letter drafted by Environment Maine urging Congress to oppose any efforts to weaken, delay or block the EPA from reducing emissions. The letter was also signed by many individual Maine physicians. Dr. Graham reported that on November 30th, she spoke at a rally in Portland to raise awareness of the issue with Maine’s Senators.</p> <p>Members discussed use of the MMA resolution on wind power. Dr. Jennings had an op-ed in the Kennebeck Journal on this issue and believes the MMA should take a more active role in ensuring that the resolution is used appropriately. He also encouraged members to read <i>The Long Emergency</i> and the article in the December issue of the <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> on clean coal and energy. Drs. Dreyfus and Graham reminded members that the MMA Executive Committee has formally decided not to respond to use of the MMA resolution however members are encouraged to respond, if interested.</p>	<p>Members agreed that the MMA and PHC need to stay active in this area.</p> <p>Members encouraged to respond directly if they believe MMA wind power resolution is being misused.</p>
<p>Toxins</p>	<p>Ms. Barnard gave a brief update on Maine’s implementation of the Safer Chemicals in Children’s Products law. In October, the Department of Environmental Protection held a hearing on rules that would designate Bisphenol A (BPA) and Nonylphenol / Nonylphenol Ethoxylates A (NPs)</p>	

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<p>Nuclear Weapons</p>	<p>as Priority Chemicals, which could then trigger further requirements such as requiring manufacturers to report the use of the chemical or banning the use in children’s products. The Department drafted rules that would designate NPs as a priority chemical and require manufacturers to report the extent that these chemical are used in children’s products. The Department also agreed to designate BPA as a priority chemical, ban its use in reusable food and beverage containers and require an alternatives assessment for uses in infant formula and baby food. The Board of Environmental Protection will hold a hearing on adopting the rules on December 17th, 2010. Brominated Flame Retardants are likely to be the next chemical taken up by the Board. Dr. Graham mentioned that Environment Health Strategies Center is worried about backsliding on this issue with the new Administration.</p> <p>Dr. Graham also discussed the need to amend the federal Toxic Substances Control Act so it can work as intended. She believes this issue should be as high a priority for the committee as climate change. The committee discussed whether they should introduce a bill in Maine having the legislature urge federal action on TSCA.</p> <p>Dr. Dreyfus was part of a PSR meeting with Senator Snowe in November regarding the New START treaty. She shared the letter she received in response, in which Senator Snowe stated that the Senate needs more time to review the data. Several committee members have also written letters to the editor regarding New START as a part of a PRS campaign, including Drs. Graham, Oppenheim, and Walworth. Committee members discussed the chance of passage.</p>	<p>Ms. Barnard to discuss with Mr. Smith legislation on TCSA. Ms. Barnard to continue to work with PSR on TCSA training.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard to request copies of letters to the editor from PSR.</p>
<p>Public Health Infrastructure</p>	<p>Committee members discussed the developments in the public health infrastructure and possible implications of the administration change.</p>	
<p>Universal Vaccination Program</p>	<p>Dr. Dreyfus provided an update on the universal vaccination program and the fact that the Board overseeing the program has now met and is working to create a list of vaccinations that will be covered by the program.</p>	<p>Dr. Dreyfus to listen to proceedings of next Board meeting on 12/9.</p>
<p>MPHA Updates</p>	<p>Committee members discussed possible threats by the new administration and legislature to the</p>	<p>Any rollback to tobacco tax should be priority for</p>

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<p>(anti-tobacco and obesity efforts)</p> <p>Vaccination of Health Care Providers</p>	<p>advances made in tobacco control efforts. The Committee discussed the MPHA tobacco tax equalization plan and school nutrition bill. The Maine AAP Chapter is also very interested in school nutrition, especially a farm to food bill that came out of a legislative report. The PHC would like to support this effort.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard gave a brief update on efforts the MMA has made to educate physicians and health care workers about receiving their annual flu vaccine. Dr. Manning reported on a recent survey of Cumberland County that showed an estimated 34% of children, 39% of adults and 40-45% of health care providers had been vaccinated as of the first week in November. Last year about 68% of health care workers had been vaccinated by the end of the flu season.</p>	<p>MMA/PHC. Ms. Barnard to research farm to food initiative and see how PHC/MMA can support the effort.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard to get updated vaccinate rate statistics from Dr. Manning or Sears for MMA Weekly Update</p>
<p>New Business</p> <p>Policy Priorities for 2010-2011</p> <p>MMA Legislative Committee Update</p> <p>Other Organization Priorities</p> <p>Brain Trauma</p>	<p>Committee members continued the discussion from last meeting regarding whether to change or add to the Committee’s policy priorities. Drs. Graham and Dreyfus suggested that tobacco control and obesity be officially added as a 5th priority area due to the importance of the issues and possible erosion in support with the new legislature.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard provided a brief overview of the recent MMA legislative committee meeting. Dr. Graham stated that the MMA will be hosting a meeting of all licensed health care providers and the PHC should work to have public health issues be a central priority for the group. Ms. Barnard reported that May 26th will be Physician Day at the Legislature. She also stated reported the MMA is now having monthly conference calls with advocacy staff from Vermont and Maine to talk about common issues.</p> <p>Dr. Dreyfus provided an overview of the Maine AAP policy priorities. Dr. Graham shared a list resolutions recently presented to the AMA house of delegates. A number dealt with public health issues, including the Gulf oil spill, helmet use in skiing and green house gas regulation.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard updated the Committee on the New Hampshire Medical Society annual meeting and a symposium that Dr. Stuart Glassman from New Hampshire is planning for March 9, 2011 on Concussions and head injury. Committee briefly discussed consensus guidelines on treating head injury and an AMA resolution that would prevent athletes from returning to play without consent of a physician.</p>	<p>Following discussion, members approved adding tobacco control and obesity as 5th priority area.</p> <p>Encourage public health to be focus of “all licensee” meeting. Advocacy updates from VT and NH should be a standing agenda item.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard to distribute AMA resolutions to PHC.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard to include meeting announcement in MMA Weekly Update plus send to state chapters of neurologists, emergency</p>

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<p>New Public Health Issues</p> <p>Smart Meters</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Tobacco Treatment Summit</p> <p>Request for Volunteers</p>	<p>Dr. Graham reported that Dr. Mills and the MeCDC did a review of research on Smart Meters and concluded that while there is public opposition, the meters do not create a public health hazard. The MeCDC findings were previously emailed to the Committee.</p> <p>Dr. Petzel reported that she recently attended a talk on disparities in income and mental health and would like to see the Committee address these issues and generally put more emphasis on mental health and child abuse.</p> <p>The Improving Tobacco Treatment Coverage for MaineCare Recipients: Summit on Maine’s Medicaid tobacco treatment benefit was rescheduled. It is now being held: January 6th, 11:30 am – 3 p at the Senator Inn, Augusta. Please RSVP by visiting: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ME MedicaidTobaccoSummit.</p> <p>Ms. Barnard shared a request for volunteers for Court Appointed Special Advocates for children who need advocates while going through the court system. Contact Ms. Barnard for more information.</p>	<p>physicians, neurosurgeons, and FP</p> <p>Ms. Barnard to post MeCDC findings in MMA Weekly Update</p> <p>Dr. Petzel to share information from talk on disparities</p>
<p>The Next Meeting is February 9, 2011 from 4:00-6:00 pm.</p>	<p>Ms. Barnard will be on maternity leave from March through June. Mariah Gleaton may staff the Committee during Ms. Barnard’s leave. The MMA will also have a law student intern, Kristen Murray-James, who may assist with policy or legislative issues.</p>	<p>2011 Meeting Dates: Feb 9th, April 13th, June 8th, Aug 10th, Oct 12th & Dec 14th</p>