

**MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION – PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 11, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chairs, Lani Graham M.D., and Norma Dreyfus M.D., Paul Liebow M.D., Daniel Oppenheim M.D., Stephen Sears M.D., Edward Walworth M.D., Robert Struba M.D., James Maier M.D.(via Phone), Robert Jennings M.D., Ann Simmons M.D. (via Phone)

OTHERS PRESENT: Gordon Smith, Andrew MacLean, and Mariah Gleaton (MMA Intern)

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP/RESULTS
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> <b>Members attended in person and via conference call and videoconference.</b>	<p>The meeting began at 4:08 and started out with Mr. MacLean discussing UEVHPA (look below for more detail).</p> <p>Dr. Graham asked for members to introduce themselves.</p>	
<b>Review of PHC meeting minutes</b>	<p>Members reviewed the minutes, motion to approve. All in favor</p>	<b>A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup> 2010.</b>
<b>Old Business</b>  <b>Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act</b>	<p>Mr. MacLean provided a memorandum on the legislation and noted that there were two existing statutes of particular interest, L.D.846 and L.D. 2036. L.D. 846 is a good Samaritan statute, which goes beyond simple scenarios and protects a physician who responds to a public health emergency and includes a volunteering physician. L.D. 2036 protects health care facilities and allows them to take whichever steps time allows for them to contact any state licensure or to ask the physician if he/she is licensed to contribute to an effort that is out of control, until the situation is again under control.</p>	<b>Share the Act with relevant specialty societies and others to further dissect and research this law to see if it fills any identified gaps in Maine law or if there are any gaps within this existing law.</b>
<b>Health Implications of Climate Change</b>	<p>Last year since the MMA Resolution on Climate Change was passed at the Annual Session Dr. Graham and Dr. Dreyfus have</p>	<b>Continue working on Op Ed's, which</b>

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	<p>been working hard at the state and national levels to reduce the impact of Climate Change. A letter was sent to Senator Snowe when she publicly spoke out for Cap and Trade Legislation on CO2. An Op Ed piece has been drafted and is in the revision process.</p> <p>A meeting with Senator Collins took place recently, where the major public concerns were expressed to be the health implications of Climate Change and the Security Issues of Climate Change. On a more somber note it is looking unlikely that any legislation will pass before the November Election.</p> <p>The Press Conference on Climate Change was only briefly mentioned in the papers. But the prepared statements made were great! Dr. Liebow and Ms. Gleaton attended.</p>	<p><b>mention Renewable Energy and also work on networking with other organizations in order to have more of an impact on public opinion and in the legislature.</b></p>
<b>Senator Collins Meeting</b>		
<b>Press Conference</b>		
<b>Use of Antibiotics in Feedlot Animals</b>	<p>Although this is a genuine health concern, there is very little that Maine can do considering it is not one of the large food-industry producing states and Maine does not contribute much to this problem. There is also not a huge amount of science proving the link between resistant strains of microorganisms originating and becoming public health threats from these feed-lot animals, although it may intuitively make sense. The drafted resolution will be placed on hold and Dr. McDermott, who was unable to attend the meeting but introduced the subject matter a few months back, will determine whether a resolution should be put forward. Maine specifically looked into the issue in 2006 coming up with L.D. 1126 – An Act to Examine the Use of Non Therapeutic Antibiotics.</p>	<p><b>Contact Dr. McDermott to determine whether to go forward with resolution.</b></p> <p><b>Find and distribute L.D. 1126.</b></p>
<b>Gubernatorial Forum on Public Health</b>	<p>This is scheduled during the Annual Meeting on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at the Harborside Hotel and Marina. All members are invited to attend. It appears as though all five candidates are going to attend, at this point in time.</p>	<p><b>Finalize and send out gubernatorial questions.</b></p>
<b>Format</b>	<p>There will be no opening statements allowed by the candidates,</p>	

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	<p>thus we will just start in on the questions. There will be between 6-8 questions given to them in advance and they will have 2 minutes to answer each. At the end the audience can submit questions. It is up to the candidate if he/she chooses to stay after the Forum to mingle. Edits were made to the questions (attached).</p>	
<b>Obesity Update</b>	<p>The Hanley Forum, attended by Mr. Smith, went very well. Health Policy Partners is drafting policies for the upcoming legislature to increase the PE4ME program, improve nutritional standards, and to require certification and licensure for child care facilities.</p>	
<b>Committee Staffing</b>	<p>Jessa Barnard, J.D. is going to be arriving on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be the Director of Public Health Policy for the MMA. Her resume was attached and she is highly qualified for the position. Ms. Gleaton will be here until the Annual Session and perhaps until the end of September. She was thanked for her excellent effort on behalf of the Committee and MMA.</p>	<p><b>Mrs. Barnard will be at the Annual Session, feel free to say hello!</b></p>
<b>Public Health Legislative Update</b>	<p>Because of time restraints, this will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
<b>New Business</b>		
<b>Resolution Ideas/Proposals</b>	<p>Two ideas were proposed for resolutions, one on the threat of nuclear war (START treaty) and the other on the Toxins Substance and Control Act (TSCA).</p>	<p><b>Make drafts of the resolutions to circulate. Dr. Graham will write the TSCA Resolution.</b></p>
<b>Health Policy Partners and Maine Public Health Association Merger</b>		
<b>Health Policy Partners and Maine Public Health Association Merger</b>	<p>Since HPP lacks enough staff, funding and administration it is likely to merge with MPHA. Hopefully this will benefit both groups and HPP will continue to be as nimble as it has been in the past relative to advocacy.</p>	<p><b>Continue to support this merger.</b></p>

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<b>Chronic Lyme Disease</b>	In Maine, Lyme disease is getting to be a major problem. Twenty years ago there were no cases, and since then it has increased to around 1,000 cases within the last year. When diagnosed and treated early there is a predictable outcome. However, if not treated there has been dispute on a condition called Chronic Lyme. IDSA guidelines were published in 2006, but dispute caused a reevaluation of the guidelines. Earlier this year in April the guidelines were reaffirmed. The science shows that long-term use of antibiotics is not an effective method for late onset of Lyme Disease and is actually detrimental to patients. Information given out by the MMA, like the IDSA guidelines, should be used to educate doctors and patients alike.	<b>Possibly hold a science-based symposium on Lyme Disease. Write an article on Lyme Disease for MMA's Newsletter.</b>
<b>BPA Public Hearing</b>	Dr. Dreyfus is unable to attend the DEP Public Hearing on BPA on the 19 <sup>th</sup> on behalf of the MMA. Ms. Gleaton will be there to read and submit comments about the banning of BPA in child products. Dr. Liebow will be speaking as well.	<b>Staff will attend and read statements on behalf of the MMA.</b>
<b>Maine Public Health Association Rewards</b>	MPHA is looking for submissions for the Public Health Program of Excellence Award and Ruth S. Shaper Memorial Award. The nomination forms are in the meeting packet and were sent to all committee members.	<b>Consult Mr. Smith if you want to make a submission.</b>
<b>MeHAF Grant for Health System Reform/Coverage Opportunities</b>	This grant gave the MMA \$40,000 a year to educate the public on the benefits of coverage expansions, like the elimination of co pays for preventable care. Ms. Barnard will be working with Mr. Smith on this grant.	
<b>Icky Tooth Movie</b>	This is the second version of Icky Tooth; the first was presented at the last annual session. This revised edition seems to be too long and it is likely that the pulling of the tooth should be eliminated.	<b>Send feedback to Dr. Lounsbury on his film.</b>

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The Next Meeting is on October 13 <sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm.		
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