

Maine Medical Association

Meeting Minutes October 20, 2010

Executive Committee

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Member	10-20										Member	10-20								
N. Cummings, MD, Ch	P										K. Mitchell, MD									
D. McDermott, MD	P										M. Parker, MD	P								
J. Linder, MD	P										B. Pierce, MD	P								
R. Chagrasulis, MD											C. Reddy, MD	Web								
J. Charity, MD	P										L. Ryan, DO									
W. Chernin, MD	Phone										J. Smith, MD									
K. Christian, MD	P										W. Strassberg, MD									
I. Daudi, MD											J. VanKirk, MD									
R. DeJong, MD																				
R. Evans, MD	Web																			
K. Flanigan, MD																				
R. Flowerdew, MD	Did he attend?P																			
M. Gleaton, MD	P										STAFF									
D. Hallbert, MD											J. Barnard	P								
P. Klainer, MD	Web										H. Lukas	P								
D. Kreckel, MD											A. MacLean	P								
J. Makin, Jr., MD	P										Dmcmahon									
M. McAllister, MD	P										G. Smith	P								
B. Miller, MD																				

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Call To Order and Determination of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called to order at 2:00 pm, Chair, Kenneth Christian, MD. No quorum was present initially. 	
2. Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis Miliano, Executive Director of the Maine Dental Association was introduced and welcomed. The agenda was presented and accepted with the addition of one item. Quorum was not met at this time to approve the agenda. 	
3. Review of Minutes of September 10, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were reviewed and accepted. Quorum was not met at this time to approve the minutes. (Minutes were subsequently approved when a quorum was achieved). (Nine members) 	The minutes of September 10, 2010 were subsequently approved.
4. Membership Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current membership numbers were reviewed, with substantial increase noted. 	
5. Finance Report		
a. September finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial report was distributed and Ms. Lukas gave a report on the finances. The report noted that the MMA is doing better than last year and that there was a recovery in the third quarter relative to the reserves. MPHP should make budget this year. The MPHP figures do not include the \$20,000 from MMC, which means that they will actually be over their goal for the voluntary contributions. Also the delinquent list is being reduced. If we get five or ten individuals out of the delinquent group, MMA 	

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	should make the goal on dues paid for the year.	
b. Approval of 2009 form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2009 IRS 990 form was reviewed. 	A motion was made to approve the 2009 IRS form 990. The motion was seconded and approved.
6. Priority Topics		
a. Proposed Amendments to Prescription Monitoring Program Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Maine Medical Association would like to comment on the amendments, but are unsure which committee has jurisdiction to do so: the Legislative Committee, the Physician Health Program Committee or the Public Health Committee. There were a couple of concerns that the Executive Committee had with the amendments to the Prescription Monitoring Program. The two major concerns were: 1) Those who have access to the databank is expanded to staff members of prescribers (after the licensed professional has designated an individual the ability to enter the system). 2) The rule, once amended, would allow for the review of the prescribers by OSA staff based on certain criteria. Some of the reasons why these two changes were a concern included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the review of the prescribers should be based on physician designed guidelines. That the program itself may not have statutory authority to do this at all. That if this is going to be amended they should take out the bullet on page 14 that informs the patient. That there should be a physician review process prior to referral to the Licensing boards. That there should be more outreach to the medical community for their opinions. That the proposed rules make joining the program more burdensome and would impair the program's goal of increasing physician participation. There is no mandate to get into the program or to update it once a prescriber has signed on. 	The public hearing for the amendments to the Prescription Monitoring Program is on November 1, 2010. It was agreed that comments should be presented at the public hearing and that these comments should include recommendations to receive input from the advisory group of this program. They should also examine if they legally can have an oversight function for prescribers.
c. Meeting with MHA 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 8 individuals attending this meeting and there will be a couple of agenda items brought by the MMA. One item would be to discuss reducing redundancy in the system by merging the Hospital Association Quality Council and MMA's Committee on Physician Quality. A couple of other possible agenda items include medical staff dues used to help the Medical Professionals Health Program, Medicaid Reimbursement and Medical Staff. ACTION – Mr. Smith to ask how to better promote MMA membership within their hospitals. Medicaid Reimbursement should be on the agenda. How are the hospitals planning to get this money and fix the problem going forward. 	Mr. Smith will gather information on how to better promote membership within hospitals. Agenda items to be discussed include Medicaid Reimbursement and supporting the MPHP.
7. Leadership Reports		
a. President: Dr. Linder		
1. Question 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question 2 on the ballot for this year is a bond issue, the proceeds of which are to improve access to dental services. The \$5.5 million dollar bond will be divided into two areas, one for community clinics all over the state and the second for a super clinic somewhere in the state to support an unidentified dental school. The only school that fits the criteria of the bond is UNE. The Bond will support facilities for training dentists, for equipment, and some other dental related items, not for a full education program. The Dental Association is in support of this bond, as it in its history has approved the building of a dental school at the University of New England. Although the Dental Association does support the bill there were definite differing opinions regarding whether to support it or not. This is because most of the funds would be going to a private institution, UNE, and some 	A motion was made to call the question; it was seconded and approved. A motion was made to support the bond issue; the motion was seconded and approved.

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2. Ad Hoc Committee on Governance	<p>believe that public funds should not be for a private facility. It is believed that dental care is critical for the well-being of individuals, which directly relates to MMA's Mission Statement. Ms. Miliano was thanked for her time for attending this portion of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This committee met last week and is on track. The committee should be able to provide recommendations at the Presidential Retreat on January 23rd in Boston. Ideas that the committee has been discussing include having a robust nominating committee; not focusing on geography exclusively as the means to have representation on the Executive Committee, reducing the number of Executive Committee meetings; and scheduling them at a time other than Wednesday afternoons. 	<p>Everyone was invited to the next meeting on November 22. Ms. McMahon will send out a survey to determine what the preferred times are for the Executive Committee to meet.</p>
3. Annual Session Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of a survey given to the exhibitors was distributed. There were 87 paid physicians in attendance with around 100 physicians in total. It appeared that everyone enjoyed the Jackson Lab collaboration. A question was asked of Mark McAllister, MD as to what would get more residents to the Annual Session or to become members. It was his opinion that there are not enough benefits for residents to join and that the benefits are not transparent enough to have residents pay to join. 	
b. President-elect; Dr. Cummings		
1. UNECOM White Coat Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Cummings reported that the ceremony was "great" and that there were 1,100 people present. Dr. Cummings is looking forward to attending this event next year as President. 	
8. Committee, section or AMA delegation reports requiring discussion		
a. Public Health Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Health Committee met last week and established their 2011 priorities to be: 1. Toxins in the environment; 2. Public Health Infrastructure 3. Vaccines. 4. Climate Change. A letter was distributed by Ms. Barnard requesting MMA to support a letter being sent to President Obama on Climate Change. An organization called Environmental Maine had drafted the letter. Physicians for Social Responsibility (Maine) want to co-sponsor with MMA information and a training session on the Toxics Substance Act. It was thought that this is not something that the Executive Committee had to make a decision on. A resolution was distributed with the "WHEREAS" clauses included. It was noted that these clauses should be removed from the resolutions once the resolution has been adopted. 	<p>A motion was made to sign on to the letter; the motion was seconded and approved.</p> <p>Dr. Linder requested that from here on, only the policy is included and approved resolutions should only contain the policy. This should be changed in the computer files of approved resolutions and on the website.</p>
b. Senior Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Senior Section Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 27 on the subject of alternative energy. Currently 30 are registered. 	
c. Legislative Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Section 10. 	
d. Committee on Membership & Member Benefits		
e. Committee on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This committee is seeking a speaker for the Annual Corporate Affiliate breakfast in April 2011. 	<p>If anyone has any ideas please contact Dr. Pierce or Lisa Martin.</p>

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Technology & Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting is scheduled for October 28th with anticipation of good attendance. There are some barriers related to staffing and budget. 	
9. EVP Report		
a. Contracts & Grants		
1. Academic Detailing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hope to have the contract renewed effective January 1, 2011. Jessa Barnard, JD, now assisting with the project management. 	
2. BOLIM Chronic Pain Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant for \$48,000 has been renewed through June 30, 2011. 	
3. MeHAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Barnard and Mr. Smith are working on this grant, the purpose of which is to educate consumers on the coverage opportunities in the new health law. 	
4. Small Hospital Peer Review Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peggy Pinkham is doing most of the work with this grant and is thus receiving most of the funds (\$40,000) 	
5. OSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OSA grant contract expires at yearend, but we expect it to be renewed (\$10,000). Mr. Smith noted that as recently as five years ago, our only grants/contracts were with the licensing boards for the MPHP. Currently MMA's grants/contracts exceed \$200,000 per year, in addition to the MPHP contracts. 	
b. Physicians Guide to Maine Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is in process, although there have been a few glitches with putting it online. We anticipate having it online soon, in the member's only section of the website. 	
c. First Friday's Educational Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 40 persons attended the October 1 program, with 50 percent participating via Webex. It is anticipated that these programs will do well, with attendance fluctuating depending on the topic. 	
d. Meeting with Aetna Officials December 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary care physicians are recommended to attend this meeting. The state is going to be introducing "managed care" to MaineCare and providers opinions are being sought by this potential applicant. 	
10. Legislative Update		
a. MPAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. MacLean distributed material listing current trustees, ex-officio members and staff of the Maine Physicians Action Fund. There are currently three vacancies. 	
b. Legislative Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The top ten legislative successes of the 124th Maine Legislature were distributed. The Legislative Committee will meet on Monday November 29. All specialties will be invited to share their legislative priorities. 	David Andrews, MD and Ned Claxton, MD were accepted as new trustees.
c. Medicare SGR cuts; Dec. 1, 2010, Jan.1, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. MacLean noted the need to communicate with Congress requesting a delay in the cuts due to take effect Dec. 1, 2010 (23%) AND January 1, 2011 (6.5%). 	Members were encouraged to communicate with Maine's Congressional delegation.

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<p>11. New Business</p> <p>a. Maine Provider Database</p> <p>b. Quality Counts/Hanley Center Forum Nov.30</p> <p>c. Request to support Heart Association "Go Red for Women"</p> <p>d. AMA Pathways to Success: What physicians need to know about the coming revolution in payment practices on Nov. 13, 10am-3pm (Concord, NH)</p> <p>e. HealthInfoNet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Maine Health Management Coalition is working on a provider database attempting to model what is being done in Massachusetts. Mr. Smith noted the significance of this annual event, which includes acclaimed writer T.R. Reid as the dinner speaker. The Heart Association has asked that MMA sponsor (at an appropriate level) the annual "Go Red for Women" luncheon honoring Dora Ann Mills, MD There is a small charge to attend this AMA education program being co-sponsored by MMA and the state medical societies in New Hampshire and Vermont. Deferred 	<p>Referred to the Maine Medical Education Trust (MMET) for consideration</p> <p>More marketing needs to be done for this program. It is hoped that some Executive Committee members will attend, joining Dr. Linder and Mr. Smith.</p>
<p>12. Election of Officers for two At large members of the Operations Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were nominations for Drs. Brian Pierce, Jennifer Charity, Challa Reddy and Dieter Kreckel. Drs. Charity and Pierce formally withdrew from nomination. 	<p>Drs. Reddy and Kreckel were elected.</p>
<p>Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.</p>		
<p>Submitted by Diane McMahon</p>	<p>Minutes authenticated by Kenneth Christian, MD</p>	

NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 8 AT 2:00 PM MMA HEADQUARTERS

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