

MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION - PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 12th, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair, Daniel Oppenheim, MD, Co-Chair, Lani Graham, MD, Ann Simmons, MD, Larry Muttu, MD, Norma Dreyfus, MD, Stephen Sears, MD, Leah Postman, DVM, Jim Maier, MD (phone)

OTHERS PRESENT: Staff: Jessa Barnard, Andrew MacLean; Dieter Kreckel, MD, MMA President

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOWUP/RESULTS
<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>Review of October 2012 Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Guests & Priority Topics</p> <p>1. Emily Figdor, Environment Maine</p>	<p>Introductions were made around the room and on the phone.</p> <p>Members reviewed the minutes and motion made to approve October 2012 minutes. Dr. Mills emailed a correction that the minutes regarding her presentation on UNE should reference both the Biddeford and Portland Campuses.</p> <p>Based on discussions at the October meeting, Ms. Figdor was invited to present more information to the Committee on the creation of a Tar Sands Pipeline from Canada to Portland. Environment Maine would like the MMA to take a position in opposition to the pipeline. Ms. Figdor described the project to the Committee, including what tar sands are, where the pipeline would be placed, the potential impacts on the environment, the impact of spills in prior pipeline accidents, and opportunities for affecting the process. Ms. Figdor shared with the Committee a fact sheet on the chemicals mixed with tar sands for transportation, noting that the major component is benzene which has a number of adverse health effects. The Material Safety Data Sheet can be found here:</p>	<p>Minutes were accepted. Ms. Barnard to add reference to Portland campus to description of Dr. Mill's presentation.</p> <p>MMA to consider information in taking a position; will be brought back to Committee at next meeting or to MMA leadership.</p>

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<p>2. Dr. Dieter Kreckel, MMA President</p> <p>3. Reconsideration of Resolution #3: Possession of Dangerous Weapons</p> <p>4. Dr. George Dreher, Physician Wellness</p>	<p>http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents_staticpost/cearef_21799/3139/responses_to_j_wier-att4.pdf She also noted that a processing plant and smoke stack will be erected in South Portland, where the oil will be placed in shipping tankers, and particulates and other pollutants will be released.</p> <p>Dr. Kreckel introduced himself to the Committee and joined for the remainder of the Committee meeting.</p> <p>At their last meeting, the MMA Board voted to return Resolution #3, regarding gun control, to the Public Health Committee for further discussion and potential modification. Drs. Lani Graham, Jim Maier and Robert McAfee attended the Board meeting to discuss the resolution and Dr. Oppenheim joined by phone. The concerns of the Board included not being clear on which weapons were included in the first resolve and whether the reference to “psychiatric” was appropriate in the second resolve. Committee members discussed the feedback of the Board and the intent of the Resolution and voted on the following three changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Add phrase “such as those defined by the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994” to the first resolve2. Strike “psychiatric” from the second resolve3. Add a third resolve, “that the MMA reaffirms its 2007 Policy ‘Regulating Guns’ and its 2004 Policy ‘Assault Weapons Ban.’” <p>Dr. Dreher is a family physician and psychiatrist who practices in Portland and is a faculty member with the Maine Medical Center family medicine residency program. He was a</p>	<p>Modifications to the Resolution were unanimously accepted by the Committee. MMA staff will bring the Resolution back to the MMA Board for consideration at their January meeting.</p>
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<p>5. Legislative Priorities</p>	<p>speaker on physician wellness at a recent MMA annual session and was invited to join by phone to share his thoughts on physician wellness as a public health issue with the Committee. Both he and Dr. Graham had attended an AMA-CMA-BMA International conference on physician health in Montreal in late October. They shared updates from the conference and emphasized the need to address this issue as a physician community.</p> <p>Members discussed several topics that might come before the legislature this year. Dr. Sears responded to the issue of whether there might need to be changes to school entry vaccination requirements (such as mandating a Tdap booster) and explained that the science is not clear enough for the MeCDC to support changing vaccination requirements at this time. There are many factors that are causing the increase in pertussis, including changes in the type of vaccine given, that need to be explored before requiring a booster. Dr. Graham and the Medical Professionals Health Program are working with the MMA to introduce a bill to modernize some of the language in statute concerning reporting or disciplining physicians with substance use disorders. Ms. Barnard also shared that the Maine Public Health Association is putting forward several bills related to tobacco and obesity issues.</p>	<p>Members were invited to join the Legislative Committee meeting immediately following this meeting and also to join the weekly Legislative Committee conference calls to be held Tuesday nights at 8 pm. MMA staff will also update Committee members on legislative issues in February.</p>
<p>Old Business and Brief Updates</p> <p>1. Domestic Violence</p>	<p>Dr. Leah Postman informed the group that she had been able</p>	<p>Dr. Postman will continue her conversations with Ms. DeMillo and update the group. Ms.</p>

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<p>2. Get Smart About Antibiotics Week</p> <p>3. Environmental Toxins & Obesity</p> <p>4. Public Health Infrastructure</p> <p>New Business</p> <p>1. Request from Lung Association to sign soot</p>	<p>to briefly connect with Tonya DiMillo, the woman who directs the Linkage Project, educating clinicians about the links between animal abuse and family violence. Ms. DiMillo is very excited about interest in continuing the work of the Linkage Project, but it will be an issue of finding a home and possibly funding.</p> <p>Members were referred to their packets for media coverage that MMA and MeCDC received for Get Smart About Antibiotics Week in November. The organizations hope to continue to work together on the issue and grow their outreach efforts.</p> <p>Members were referred to their packets for an Op-Ed that Dr. Graham and Oppenheim authored regarding the BPA rules pending before the Board of Environmental Protection. The MMA had several members who testified before the Board in the fall when they held a hearing on extending the ban on BPA to additional children's products.</p> <p>Members were referred to their packets for an Op-Ed authored by Dr. Graham on the elimination from the MaineCare program of coverage for smoking cessation medications. The Public Health Association has prioritized restoration of this benefit in the upcoming legislative session and MMA will be working with them on their efforts.</p> <p>The Lung Association requested that the MMA sign onto a</p>	<p>Barnard and Dr. Oppenheim to continue to consider scheduling a domestic violence training for the public health committee.</p> <p>Members voted unanimously to sign onto the letter. MMA Staff to confirm with MMA leadership and</p>
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<p>standards letter</p> <p>2. 2013 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>3. New Public Health Issues on the Horizon</p> <p>4. Upcoming Events & Announcements</p> <p>Next Meeting: February 13th, 4-6 pm, MMA Offices or by phone</p>	<p>letter being sent to President Obama and the EPA to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter. Rules to do so are currently pending before the EPA and a decision is imminent. MMA has supported similar policies in the past and it is consistent with the MMA policy on the Clean Air Act.</p> <p>None raised</p> <p>Committee members reminded of Legislative Committee activities and Physicians' Day at the Legislature, March 19th</p>	<p>inform the Lung Association.</p> <p>Committee to continue with meeting schedule of meeting every other month on the second Wednesday from 4-6 pm: February 13th April 10th June 12th August 14th October 9th December 11th</p> <p>Meeting Adjourned</p>
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