MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION - PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 13th, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair, Daniel Oppenheim, MD, Co-Chair, Lani Graham, MD, Ted Walworth, MD, Norma Dreyfus, MD, Stephen Sears, MD, Larry Mutty, MD (phone), Robert Struba, MD (phone), Carol Eckert, MD (phone), Dora Mills, MD (phone)

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Coburn, PhD (guest), Kathryn Austin (guest), Philip Caper, MD (guest), Jeff Barkin, MD (guest), Angela Westhoff (guest), Staff: Jessa Barnard

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOWUP/RESULTS
Welcome & Introductions	Introductions were made around the room and on the phone.	
Review of April 2012 Meeting Minutes	Members reviewed the minutes, motion made to approve minutes.	**Minutes were accepted.**
Guests & Priority Topics		
1. Resolutions for 2012 MMA Annual Session	Dr. Graham would like members to start considering topics for resolutions to introduce at the 2012 MMA Annual Session, to be held in Bar Harbor September 7-9th. They must be considered and finalized soon after the August 8th Committee meeting. Dr. Mills suggested that the Committee review past resolutions to assess the progress made and whether the topic needs to be revisited.	**Committee members to review past resolutions and suggest topics for 2012 resolutions. Past resolutions indexed by topic are available here: http://www.mainemed.com/public/ApprovedResolutions_SummaryFormat_2000-2011.pdf Ms. Barnard will also email a summary of resolutions by year.**
2. Physician Domestic Violence Education Program	Kathyrn Austin attended on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV), the organization now housing the program to educate health care clinicians about	**Ms. Austin will be creating a health care provider advisory committee – she will reach out to PHC members to see if they are**

	screening for and addressing domestic violence (formerly housed by Physicians for Social Responsibility). Her goal is to expand the program statewide and update the training materials based on the latest research. As a sample of the quality of materials MECDV creates, she shared a set of to educate about domestic violence in the workplace. Dr. Struba suggested Ms. Austin also reach out to nontraditional health care providers. Dr. Walworth suggested mammography techs should be educated as during a mammography may be one time women are away from their abusers.	**interested in serving.**
3. Muskie School Master's in Public Health Program	Andrew Coburn, PhD, attended to update members on the new **Master's in Public Health degree** being offered at the Muskie school at USM. It is an outgrowth of the Master's in Health Management degree that Muskie has offered for 15 years. Now students can enroll in the MPH program and choose either a Health Management or Policy & Practice concentration. They hope to eventually offer an environmental health concentration, as well. Their first class will enroll in the fall of 2012; students can choose part-time or full-time enrollment and the program will focus on in-person experiences rather than online. They likely will not be able to offer an infectious disease track. Members discussed how the new MPH program will related to the UNE public health program. Dr. Mills reported that UNE just graduated 32 students with MPH degrees. Dr. Coburn also informed PHC members the he would like to recreate a **public health institute** along with UNE and the Maine Center for Public Health. It would provide technical assistance to public health initiatives and communities and advocate for public health.	**Dr. Coburn willing to provide assistance on priorities that PHC is pursuing. Will also invite students to join PHC meetings. Ms. Barnard to add Dr. Coburn to PHC email list.**

MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION - PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 13th, 2012

4. Health Policy Study Group	Dr. Jeff Barkin attended in person and Dr. Philip Caper attended by phone to discuss how the newly-formed Health Policy Study Group may be able to coordinate with the PHC. The Study Group formed after the 2011 Physician's Day at the Legislature when Dr. Barkin and Dr. Joel Kase discussed the need for a nonpartisian, non-political study group of health reform issues. They have created a reading list and have started to read and discuss key books and articles on health reform. Members discussed the focus of the group and any response to the pending Supreme Court decision on the ACA. Ms. Barnard circulated a draft MMA statement on the ACA decision and asked for member feedback. Ms. Barnard also circulated a PowerPoint presentation by Jim Hester on integrating the public health system into health care reform.	**- Members interested in joining the Health Policy Study Group should email Angela Westhoff, Executive Director of the Maine Osteopathic Association: awesthoff@mainedo.org.** **- Ms. Barnard will circulate MMA statement on ACA electronically to PHC members present and ask for edits or feedback. Let Ms. Barnard know if you can attend a press event on the ACA decision.** **- Ms. Barnard to add Dr. Kase, Dr. Caper and Dr. Barkin to PHC email list. Ms. Barnard to send Mr. Hester's presentation to PHC and Dr. Caper and Barkin.**
5. Updates from MeCDC	Dr. Sears attended on behalf of the MeCDC. Dr. Sears believes that **appropriate use of antibiotics** is a large issue for public health and needs to be addressed. Likely 50% of antibiotic use in humans is inappropriate – 30% of the time no antibiotics are necessary and 20% of the time clinicians select the wrong drug. Antibiotic resistance is now becoming a serious issue. CDC has a role in helping clinicians know what antibiotics are indicated based on what is circulating in the community. Ms. Barnard shared request with PHC for MMA to support the federal Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical	**MeCDC to continue to address issue & bring to PHC as appropriate. Members voted to continue endorsement of Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Use Act. Ms. Barnard to communicate support to Union of Concerned Scientists.**

	Use Act. MMA has endorsed this in the past. Dr. Sears also discussed with members updating the MeCDC **bloodborne pathogen rule** for health care practitioners. This is guidance created by the MeCDC and is not binding. It suggests policies and procedures for reviewing how a practitioner can practice safely and minimize the risk of transmitting a bloodborne pathogen if he/she is infected. MeCDC's old guidance was out of date. While most facilities have their own policies on this topic, the MeCDC procedures are in place for those who practice independently or do not feel comfortable using their facility review process.	**Members to send Dr. Sears feedback on the draft guidance as soon as possible.**
Old Business & Brief Updates **1. Physician Wellness**	Not discussed due to time	
2. Domestic Violence	See above	
3. Environmental Toxins & Obesity	Ms. Barnard circulated with the agenda an excerpt from the IOM Weight of the Nation Report. See: http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/Accelerating-Progress-in-Obesity-Prevention.aspx	
4. Preserving the Fund for a Healthy Maine	Not discussed due to time. Members are directed to the following article in the Sun Journal discussing implementing the recent budget cuts to the Healthy Maine Partnerships: http://www.sunjournal.com/news/maine/2012/06/24/health-coalitions-face-tough-choices-light-funding/1213049	

MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION - PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 13th, 2012

5. Response from MMA Board re: status of Resolutions Approved at 2011 Annual Session	Ms. Barnard informed Committee members that the MMA Board has adopted all resolutions that passed at the 2011 Annual Session as formal MMA policy.	
New Business		
1. Request to sign on to Environment Maine RGGI letter	Ms. Barnard shared a request from Environment Maine that the MMA endorse a proposal to strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) standards.	**Members voted to endorse Environment Maine request. Ms. Barnard to forward request to MMA leadership.**
2. Legislative issues: wrap up of 2012 session & prep for 2013 session	Not discussed due to time.	
3. New Public Health Issues on the Horizon	Not discussed due to time.	
4. Upcoming Events & Announcements	Not discussed due to time. Ms. Barnard included with the agenda a press release describing that Dr. Larry Losey had been chosen as a Childhood Immunization Champion by the US CDC.	
2012 PHC Meetings: August 8th, October 10th, December 12th, 4-6 pm, MMA Offices		**Meeting Adjourned**