

## TESTIMONY OF

Karynlee Harrington, Director, Maine Quality Forum (Dirigo Health)

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Hearing Date: March 1, 2023

**LD 258 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025"**

Senators Rotundo and Bailey, Representatives Sachs and Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Karynlee Harrington. I am the Director of the Maine Quality Forum (MQF), and I am here today to present testimony on those items presented in the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget for Dirigo Health.

### Overview

The Maine Quality Forum (MQF) was established in Dirigo Health in 2003 pursuant to Title 24-A, Chapter 87 Section 6951, to monitor and improve the quality of health care in the State of Maine. The duties of the MQF as defined in statute include: promoting the transparency of health care quality and performance measurement data, annual public reporting on the total spending on primary care services in the state of Maine; spending on behavioral health care services; and the rate of health care associated infections in Maine.

### Maine Quality Forum Key Deliverables Include

- Make recommendations to the Maine Health Data Organization on the reporting requirements for the collection of hospital and other health care sectors health care quality measures (90-590 Chapter 270, *Uniform Reporting System for Health Care Quality Data Sets*)
- Maintain the quality reporting on [www.comparemaine.org](http://www.comparemaine.org)

- Support the external validation of the reporting of healthcare associated infections in Maine's hospitals
- Develop the annual report to the Legislature on the amount of primary care spending in the State using the MHDO claims data
- Develop the annual report to the Legislature on the amount of spending on behavioral health care in the State using the MHDO claims data
- Develop the annual report to the Legislature on the state of healthcare associated infections in Maine hospitals
- Support the development and ongoing maintenance of the Infection Prevention Forum, a web-based remote training platform for Maine healthcare facilities. Topics currently include: COVID-19 exposure investigation, personal protective equipment training, core infection prevention, biological hazards and bloodborne pathogens for clinical and non-clinical staff
- Provide technical support to the Maine CDC for Project Firstline, the CDC's national training collaborative for healthcare infection prevention and control
- Support the Office of Affordable Health Care
- Support in partnership with the MHDO, the development of a data reporting infrastructure that allows authorized data users to generate information about the quality and cost of healthcare in the state of Maine at both an aggregate and granular level

Attachment A in my testimony is a list of links to various legislative reports MQF is responsible for developing.

#### **FY24-25 Proposed Budget**

The Governor's proposed budget for MQF is on page A-192 of your budget document. The budget contains no initiatives for FY24-25. That concludes my testimony on items for the Maine Quality Forum; I am happy to answer any questions.

## Attachment A

- Spending on Primary Care Services in Maine. [Here is the fourth annual report](#)
- **Health Care Expenditures and Health Care Quality in Maine: Baseline Report:**  
<https://mhdo.maine.gov/tableau/baselineHealthcareExpQuality.cshtml>
- **Hospital Quality Data:** [https://mhdo.maine.gov/quality\\_data\\_reports.htm](https://mhdo.maine.gov/quality_data_reports.htm)
- **MHDO and MQF's Health Care Costs and Quality Transparency Website:**  
<https://www.comparemaine.org/>
- Training module on the *Importance of Reducing Urinary Tract Infection Rates in Long-Term Care:*  
[Urinary Tract Infections \(UTI\) for Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- Infection Prevention On-line Learning for Healthcare workers:  
<https://maineinfectionpreventionforum.org/>
- [Healthcare Associated Infections in Maine, 2018 Annual Report](#)
- **Patient Experience Matters' Report, "[Analysis of Patient Experience Over Time, 2012-2014](#)"**
- **[External Validation Report of CY 2017 Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection \(CLABSI\)](#)**  
**[in Maine Hospitals](#)**
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