

MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION - PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 13, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair, Daniel Oppenheim, MD (via phone), Co-Chair, Lani Graham, MD, John Garofalo, MD, James Goldberg, MD, Carol Eckert, MD, Stephen Sears, MD (phone), Jim Maier, MD (phone), Larry Mutty, MD (phone), Tom McHugh (phone)

OTHERS PRESENT: Staff: Jessa Barnard

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOWUP/RESULTS
<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <p><b>Review of December 2012 Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Guests &amp; Priority Topics</b></p> <p><b>1. Ed Miller &amp; Effie Craven, American Lung Association, Update on Healthy Air Coalition/Clean Air Act</b></p>	<p>Introductions were made around the room and on the phone.</p> <p>Members reviewed the minutes. Ms. Barnard requested members to review and add to the list of attendees as she could not find the attendance list from the meeting. Motion made to approve December 2012 minutes with addition of attendees named.</p> <p>Mr. Miller and Ms. Craven gave an overview of issues impacting the Clean Air Act. The American Lung Association has created a nationwide agenda to promote clean air, rather than just being reactive to attacks. They distributed copies of their February 2013 Healthy Air Agenda and an updated list of Coalition members and priorities (attached as PDF). Their agenda includes: cleaning up coal-fired power plants, cleaning up gasoline and vehicles, funding the infrastructure that ensures healthy air and fully implementing the Clean Air Act. The Lung Association also continues to work on a bill to address smoke from wood stoves. MMA can help by watching for emails from the Healthy Air Coalition</p>	<p><b>Minutes were accepted with additional names of those in attendance.</b></p>

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<p><b>2. Discussion on Tar Sands position</b></p>          <p><b>3. Legislative Priorities for 2013</b></p> <p><b>a. Vaccinations</b></p>	<p>asking for calls to legislators or other action when there are issues pending in Congress or Augusta.</p> <p>Based on discussions at the October meeting, Ms. Figdor from Environment Maine was invited in December to present more information to the Committee on the creation of a Tar Sands Pipeline from Canada to Portland. She drafted a sample letter for consideration at this meeting. Committee members discussed the letter. Dr. Garofalo suggested that the Committee make some edits to focus exclusively on potential health impacts from the pipeline and information physicians would have familiarity with.</p> <p>Members discussed several topics pending before the legislature this year.</p> <p>Members discussed several pending bills related to vaccinations, including a bill to allow pharmacists to administer vaccines to children over 9 and a bill to tighten the philosophical exemption from vaccines for school entry. Dr. Eckert expressed concerns with the proposal for pediatricians to sign off on a form with parents before they receive an exemption – doctors already routinely discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination and don't want to be seen as approving of the exemptions. Dr. Sears described some issues with pharmacists providing more vaccinations to children without them having the capacity to participate in ImmPACT.</p>	<p><b>Modifications to the letter were unanimously accepted by the Committee. MMA staff will bring the letter to the MMA Board for consideration at their January meeting.</b></p>
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<p><b>b. Gun Violence</b></p>	<p>There will be a number of bills introduced this session on gun violence. Dr. Maier expressed that these proposals will be followed closely by psychiatrists. APA policy is that some of the better state laws allow law enforcement to seize guns in the midst of a crisis (suicide, dv situation, etc) and they don't want to expand registries to over-disclose more information that useful. Dr. Garofalo stated that the MMA should present about the public health impact of guns and focus our testimony on the physicians' perspective. Dr. McHugh reminded the Committee to consider the type of bullets allowed and that hollow point bullets cause extensive injuries.</p>	<p><b>Ms. Barnard to include as a PDF the article in the Sun Journal on the bill Mark Dion will be sponsoring. Dr. Maier and Dr. Mutty potentially interested in testifying. Also consider a surgeon such as Dr. McHugh or McAfee.</b></p>
<p><b>c. Mosquito Borne Illnesses (LD 292)</b></p>	<p>Dr. Sears explained that this is a Department of Agriculture bill that mirrors laws in other states that allow them to consider all mosquito abatement techniques (including pesticides). Some members expressed concerns with the level of CDC involvement in the decisions and the weight that would or would not be given to the potential harms of pesticide application. Dr. Eckert is a member of the Board of Pesticide and explained that they do carefully weigh impacts of pesticide use.</p>	<p><b>Committee members agree that MMA should take a position of monitoring the bill.</b></p>
<p><b>d. Tobacco Control bills</b></p>	<p>Ms. Barnard explained that there will be a number of bills related to tobacco control efforts, including a cigarette tax increase, equalizing the tax on other tobacco products and banning smoking on college campuses. Dr. Graham and Maier believe the Committee should continue to prioritize these issues.</p>	
<p><b>e. Tanning ban</b></p>	<p>Ms. Barnard described LD 272 which will ban tanning for minors.</p>	

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<p><b>f. Other</b></p> <p><b>Old Business and Brief Updates</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Domestic Violence</b></li> <li><b>2. Physician Wellness</b></li> <li><b>3. Updates from MeCDC</b></li> </ol> <p><b>New Business</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. New Public Health Issues on the Horizon</b></li> <li><b>2. Upcoming Events &amp; Announcements</b></li> </ol>	<p>Members briefly discussed and expressed support for work on bills to address toxins/chemical safety, obesity in schools, safety issues, medical marijuana (opposed) and access to health care/ACA/MaineCare issues.</p> <p>Tabled for April meeting due to absence of Dr. Oppenheim and Dr. Postman.</p> <p>Not discussed due to lack of time.</p> <p>Not discussed due to absence of Dr. Sears at this point in the meeting.</p> <p>None raised.</p> <p>Committee members reminded of Legislative Committee weekly calls and Physicians' Day at the Legislature, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Graham also reminded members about the Medical Professional Health Program April 5<sup>th</sup> conference at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland. There is a great line up of speakers including a physician from Canada and Maine experts on addiction.</p>	
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<p><b>Next Meetings: June 12th, August 14<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 pm, MMA Offices or by phone</b></p>		<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>
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