



**Caring For ME Leadership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 14th; 9:00 am - 10:00 pm**  
**Location: virtual via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/363389261>**

**Attendees:** Olivia Alford , Leah Bauer , Amy Belisle , Kaley Boucher , Matt Braun , Adrienne Carmack , Catherine Chichester , Kayla Cole , Steve Diaz , Kendra Emery, Deb Hagler , Katie Fullam Harris , Sadie Knott , Theresa Knowles , Sue Kring , Lisa Letourneau , Cat London , Andrew MacLean , Jennifer McConnell , Peter Michaud , Dora Mills , Elisabeth Fowlie Mock , Noah Nesin , Stephanie Nichols , Joan Orr , Marcus Riccioni , Kathryn Rouillard , Eddie Smith , Gordon Smith , Lindsay Smith , Jackie Tiner , Sue Wood

Topics	Notes	Actions/Decisions
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of agenda</li> </ul>	
<b>Review Pharmacist-Provider Workgroup Report- Discuss Progress, Ongoing Work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephanie outlined the goals of the Pharmacy-Provider Taskforce and presented the work and outcomes, including challenges and recommendations. Here is the link to the summary of <a href="#">The Maine Pharmacist-Provider Task Force Update</a>.</li> <li>April 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am: Public Hearing on the Naloxone Rules.</li> <li>Goal is to be complete by early to mid-summer.</li> <li>Pharmacists will need to earn 2 CEUs to be able to initiate naloxone therapy.</li> <li>First training in April 7 at the <a href="#">MSHP</a> meeting.</li> <li>Recommendations: continue to meet bi-monthly, continue to promote pharmacists for recognition, continue to support and develop pharmacist provided naloxone 2 hour CE, This Task Force recommends that the State DHHS PMP Advisory Committee Resume meeting regularly.</li> </ul> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is payment for the medication handled or considered in terms of is it OTC if a pharmacist is dispensing it or is it considered a prescription and covered by health insurance? ANSWER: Treated similar to influenza vaccinations. Not over the counter, still a prescription. Not able to prescribe, but able to initiate. Patients should be able to use health plan coverage for it.</li> <li>Does the insurance company still reimburse for it if it's not for the patient? It is variable? ANSWER: There are some carriers that will cover it. Many pharmacies don't carry it or have it. We need a map of who doesn't have it and how do we encourage them to carry it?</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last time MICIS checked, most commercial insurance did not cover naloxone prescriptions. MaineCare does cover nasal spray, IM and "kit" nasal. MaineCare will cover two units per 28 days. Some private insurance companies are starting to work on covering it.</li> <li>• ProPublica link with opioid data resources with geo mapping: <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NDjd-7l2GIENPFRgMi5cT63Q6KRzWsvTHohbXEStnHg/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NDjd-7l2GIENPFRgMi5cT63Q6KRzWsvTHohbXEStnHg/edit</a></li> <li>• Why are a lot of pharmacies not stocking it? Logistics, need to buy a 10 pack at a time and if not using a lot before expiring can be costly for the pharmacy.</li> <li>• Set aside time task force's May meeting to discuss this more of availability and coverage. Also , Lisa Letourneau will reach out to Katherine Pelletreau</li> <li>• Explore different ways to make kits more affordable</li> <li>• Excellent naloxone teaching videos can be found at: <a href="http://www.prescribetoprevent.org">www.prescribetoprevent.org</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Update on Legislative Task Force and Policy Issues – Gordon Smith</b></p>	<p>Lot of work, but highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve to Establish Pilot Project to Save Lives to Support People with Substance Abuse in Washington County, Bill #812, pilot project in Washington County. Working to get money to fund from federal funding. Ann Perry, NP from Calais. Final amendment – was reviewed. It will establish a 24/7 phone system that we hope 211 would become, but isn't there yet. People would be trained, coordinate counseling with 15 people around the county. Staffing coordinator establish system of recovery coaches. An evaluation would report back in March 2021.</li> <li>• Bill #1711 for housing and treatment for homeless people (Portland Preble Street bill for homeless \$2.2 Million)</li> <li>• Bill to set up opiate authority bill – unlikely to pass.</li> <li>• Certification of recovery residences</li> <li>• Bill #1707 funding for needle exchanges</li> <li>• Bill #605 money to treat 1000 uninsured and Bill #1430. Language currently states that the department would fund a continuum of services across state for people with substance abuse disorders, not to exclude opioid disorders. Temporarily agreement to fund this for \$6.6 Million. Waiting for public language to be shared.</li> <li>• There is talk of consolidating several bills for the funding.</li> </ul>	

**Updates**

- **The QC Annual Meeting is Wed. April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Augusta Civic Center.** [Registration](#) is open.  
If you are part of the Caring for ME Clinician Group- please use the link to sign up that Kayla has sent in her email because the Physicians Foundation grant is covering the cost of your registration.  
Afternoon workshop (1-3 pm) at Augusta Civic Center-Follow-up meeting to Building a Stronger Recovery-Oriented System of SUD Care in Maine on 2/14 for Caring for ME Leadership Group. Please RSVP to Lisa Letourneau by 3/21 if you are attending so we have enough seats.  
(letourneau.lisa@gmail.com)
- **CCSME Upcoming Meetings:**
  - Wednesday, April 11 in Portland, Maine | UNE, Innovation Hall | 9:30 am to 4 pm CCSME is offering **Change Attitudes, Change Actions, and Champion Recovery in Healthcare.** This healthcare focused program explores the impact of stigma on people in and seeking recovery from substance use disorder. There will be a panel, various expert presenters, and an opportunity for participants to collaborate on a case study with UNE health professions students.  
<http://ccsme.org/events/>
  - Friday, April 27 in Husson University, Westbrook, Maine | 9 am to 3:15 pm **Opioids and Health Complications: What to Look for and Treatment Updates.** Dr. Kristen Silvia and Dr. Kirran Thakkar will cover physical health review assessments, preventative measures regarding vaccinations to mitigate health conditions, and updates on the various treatments of health conditions related to intravenous drug use.  
<http://ccsme.org/events/>
  - Eddie Smith from Senator King’s office: USDA Office of Rural Development is going to hold opioid roundtables in July. Maine is one of five states chosen (Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Utah, Oklahoma)

**Meeting wrap-up**

- Thank you to all the participants for their work on this issue over the last year! No virtual meeting in April because of the conference. If you have topics or agenda items, please email [abelisle@mainequalitycounts.org](mailto:abelisle@mainequalitycounts.org).
- Lisa Letourneau will be the facilitator of this meeting starting in May. She is returning to QC as a part time Medical Director.