



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors of Maine Quality Counts (QC) has made the thoughtful and strategic decision to join forces with Qualidigm - a quality improvement/technical assistance organization based in Wethersfield, CT. Like QC, Qualidigm develops and promulgates QI strategies that are designed to improve the quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness of healthcare, typically through transformational change. We view this as a coming together of equals - the result of natural synergy between two partners with complementary strengths.

After four months of due diligence and negotiations, the QC Board determined that an affiliation-merger with Qualidigm will help sustain the important, quality improvement work we've *all* been doing on behalf of the citizens of Maine. When I say "all", I mean Maine Quality Counts, our members, our partners, and now – Qualidigm. This union will go a long way in expanding our footprint throughout New England.

Here are some of the highlights:

- This will be a two-step process involving a transition or affiliation period (through July 31, 2019), culminating in a full-blown merger (effective August 1 of next year).
- Qualidigm is committed to promoting QC's brand identity and presence in Maine, building on our strong relationships in the region. They see us as being a critical hub for northern New England, along with their branch offices in Barre, VT, and Dover, NH. QC will still maintain our office and a majority of our current staff in Manchester, ME.
- It was decided that Qualidigm would become the sole "Member" of Maine Quality Counts. Current QC Members will retain their benefits and access to services through the membership period, but they opted to give up their voting rights.
- QC will have representation (and a voice) on the combined board of directors, and I will be staying on as executive director. Qualidigm

wants to be sure that there is continuity around programs, services, and leadership going forward. While contraction is the inevitable result of any merger, the overall impact on QC's resources and staff will be minimal. In fact, we anticipate taking on new projects.

- Over time, there will be a gradual blending of names/logos, marketing materials, websites, and social media campaigns. We're also considering combining our annual conferences!
- As the merged entity further develops its capacity for bidding on the highly competitive, future task orders that will be released by CMS and other federal agencies, we will continue to strive for operational and programmatic efficiency.

For additional information about Qualidigm, I encourage you to check out their website: [www.qualidigm.org](http://www.qualidigm.org). You should also feel free to call me directly if you have questions about the affiliation-merger.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Clifford", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Larry Clifford  
Executive Director  
Maine Quality Counts