

Statewide Quality Advisory Committee (SQAC) Meeting  
Wednesday, January 25, 2012  
10:00AM – 12:00PM  
MEETING MINUTES

**Location:**

600 Washington Street  
7th floor, Room 7004 - 7006  
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

**Co-Chairs:** John Auerbach (DPH) and Áron Boros (DHCFP)

**Committee Attendees:** Dianne Anderson, Dr. James Feldman, Dr. Richard Lopez, Jon Hurst, Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Dr. Julian Harris, and Kathy Glynn as a designee for Dolores Mitchell

**Committee Members Not Present:** Dolores Mitchell

**Other Attendees:** Dr. John Freedman



SQAC Meeting 1  
Agenda



SQAC Bylaws



SQAC Priorities



SQAC Meeting 1  
Slide Deck



SQAC Mandated  
Measures



SQAC Additional  
Potential Measures

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1. Welcome and Introduction
    - The Co-Chairs extended a welcome to the Committee members and the public. The Committee members were then asked to introduce themselves.
  2. Scope of Advisory Committee's Task under Chapter 288, §54 of the Acts of 2010
    - The Co-Chairs presented the context of standard quality measures and health reform.
    - The Co-Chairs articulated the role of the SQAC – to identify and endorse measures for inclusion in the Standard Quality Measure Set and recommend future priorities for quality measurement.
    - The Co-Chairs went over the Committee meeting schedule, noting that the next SQAC meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2012.
    - The Co-Chairs then called for a vote on allowing remote participation; the Committee members unanimously voted to allow for remote participation pursuant to the Open Meeting Law.
  3. Department of Public Health Regulatory Process
    - Co-Chair Auerbach presented the Division of Public Health regulatory process and explained the six steps of approval.
      - Several Committee members had questions regarding possible overlap or conflict in recommendations issued by SQAC and other measurement sets.
      - The Co-Chairs noted that, as they are also committee members on The Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Council (HCQCC), they will work to coordinate SQAC's efforts with HCQCC.
  4. Review Committee Bylaws
    - The Co-Chairs presented and summarized the draft Committee bylaws.
    - The bylaws approval vote was tabled until the next SQAC meeting on February 21.
      - Committee members raised questions about how the bylaws propose to advise other organizations regarding the utilization of the recommended measure sets.

- Although the primary function of the SQAC will be its advisory role to the Department and the Division, the Committee may elect to express recommendations to the wider stakeholder community regarding adoption of the proposed standard quality measure set (SQMS), with the understanding that the Department is able to promulgate regulations only within its regulatory purview. The draft bylaws are amended to reflect this.

## 5. Review of Key Materials

- The Co-Chairs introduced Dr. Freedman, a quality measurement expert, who spoke about the principles for measure selection and the mandated measure sets.
- The three areas of SQAC priorities were described in detail and can be found in the attached SQAC Priorities document.
  - Committee members asked whether community and population health included disparities in care and noted pediatric and oral healthcare measures were often overlooked. A Committee member also inquired about the inclusion of patient experience measures.
  - Dr. Freedman stated that disparities in care, pediatric and oral healthcare are not explicit priorities, but those types of measures may meet one or more of the three areas of priority. He also noted that there are patient experience measures included in the mandated measure sets (i.e. Massachusetts Ambulatory Care Experiences Survey (ACES) and Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Survey (HCAHPS)).
- Dr. Freedman then detailed the proposed approach to evaluation of measures: priority, validity and practicality tests. He then described the four mandated measure sets: CMS Hospital Process Measures, Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Survey (HCAHPS), the Healthcare Effective Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and the Massachusetts Ambulatory Care Experiences Survey (ACES).
  - A Committee member asked to see a critical review of the mandated measure set.
- Dr. Freedman briefly touched on both the SQAC Mandated Measures (attached) and the SQAC Additional Potential Measures (attached). Both measure catalogs will be described in more detail at the next meeting on February 21. He proposed that the Committee first prioritize which of these measures they want to look at, as he believes it will not be possible to evaluate all of the measures. Dr. Freedman noted that as the comprehensive measures catalog is developed, it will include information about the settings in which specific measures are currently being utilized.

## 6. Next Steps

- Co-Chair Boros presented the process for nominating additional potential measures:
  - At appropriate times, public attendees will have the opportunity to propose measures for nomination. A member of the SQAC must subsequently nominate such measures to allow for formal consideration by the committee. The SQAC Co-Chairs shall identify the appropriate time frame for measure nomination at the commencement of each annual session.
  - When appropriate, staff may be utilized to support Committee members' measure nominations.
- The Co-Chairs proposed committee members consider other questions worth asking in evaluating existing and proposed measures, in addition to the established three principles for measure selection (priority, validity, and practicality).

- A quality measurement Webinar will be held in between the first two meetings and will review approaches to quality measurement, including a presentation by Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP) describing initiatives in the Commonwealth.

Meeting was adjourned.

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Next meeting – February 21, 2012, 10:00AM – 12:00PM at:  
2 Boylston Street  
HCF-Daley/Berkley Room, 5th Floor  
Boston MA, 02111