

## Emergency Department Working Group

December 11, 2023 | 4:00-5:00pm

### Minutes

**Members present:** Greg Allard, Jonathan Bankoff, John C. Brancato, Barbara Cass, Phil Davis, Charles Dike, Dock Fox, Daniel Freess, Rebekah Heckman, Michael Holmes, Beth Liebhardt, Renee Malaro, Jennifer A. Martin, Christopher Moore, Mag Morelli, Mairead Painter, Phillip Roland, Greg Shangold, Anumeha Singh

**Members absent:** Matt Barrett, Lara Chepenik, Craig Mittleman

**DPH Staff:** Melia Allan, Miriam Miller

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#### Call to Order

- The co-chairs invited members who are new to the meeting to introduce themselves – Charles Dike, the medical director for DMHAS introduced himself
- Chris called for a motion to approve the minutes from the 11.09 meeting
  - John Brancato called for a motion, Michael Holmes seconded, the group approved the motion

#### Finalize Mission Statement

- Chris went over the mission statement, noting that there was only one change suggested by Dr. Mittleman to include the word access, final text below:
  - “To understand the various factors that lead to emergency department overcrowding and boarding and to provide recommendations to relevant stakeholders, including the health and human services agencies, the legislature, hospitals, and other related industries, on quality measures and actionable interventions to limit boarding and ensure that all people presenting to Connecticut emergency departments have access to timely, equitable, and dignified care.”
- Chris called for a motion to finalize the mission statement
  - Beth Liebhardt motioned to approve the statement, Dock Fox seconded, the group passed the mission statement (no opposition voiced)

#### Discussion of Quality Measures Subgroup’s Recommendation to the Legislature

- Chris Moore and Greg Shangold introduced the quality measures subgroup proposal
  - “We recommend to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health that the Connecticut Department of Public Health should collaborate with this workgroup to develop mandated, publicly reported quality measure(s) on emergency department boarding, requesting necessary resources from the state to accomplish this.”
- Greg explained that the group talked about creating a publicly reported measure that would be best kept at DPH to where the hospitals would submit data
  - The quality measures subgroup decided on two measures: 1) the percent of patients that are boarded over four hours and 2) the total length of stay

- The subgroup also discussed the need to look at the mental health component of ED admittances but track these separately
- Barbara encouraged the group to think on this more before proposing it this legislative session
  - She commented that we do not have a concrete plan on how to use the data that would get collected
  - She encouraged the group to consider the impact on the hospitals and other stakeholders
  - She also noted that this proposal was not budgeted for in the governor’s budget
- Jennifer had a comment on the report: trying to gather something meaningful for a group that has just convened in September is a herculean task
  - She expressed that this proposal is a great start for the group to mold what they are doing
- John Brancato suggested that this proposal is not too much as it is symbolic and shows that the group takes the work seriously and it will need attention and resources going forward
  - Dock Fox agreed that this is a great start to set guide rails down
- Michael Holmes shared that his takeaway was “what are we measuring”: he thinks this first iteration is a step in the right direction to engage in more dialogue with DPH
- Greg Shangold expressed that ED doctors, nurses, and other staff think of the boarding every day on every shift, and have been for at least 21 years
  - There are already nationally established metrics (We don’t need to reinvent the wheel)
  - The group can start with boarding threshold over 4 hours
- Chris said that this request is not a bill, but rather an ask of the legislature
- Chris called for a motion to vote on the quality measure recommendation
  - John Brancato motioned, Dock Fox seconded
- VOTE RECORD

<b>Support (Yes)</b>	<b>Oppose (No)</b>
Chris Moore, John Brancato, Michael Holmes, Charles Dike, Daniel Freess, Mag Morelli, Phil Davis, Renee Malaro, Anumeha Singh, Beth Liebhardt, Dock Fox, Greg Allard, Greg Shagold, John Bankoff, Rebekah Heckmann, Jennifer Martin	Barbara Cass
Total: 16	Total: 1

- The motion passed, 16 to 1.
- Barbara Cass clarified that DPH does not want there to be an antagonistic relationship between the working group and DPH, as everyone is supporting quality and safety in healthcare, but this proposal is not allocated for in the governor’s budget

**Discuss Legislative Report Draft**

- The report is due January 1, 2024 – DPH says there is latitude – the group will turn it in mid-January
- Chris explained that the group will use the time here and during the next meeting to approve a report to the legislature
- Michael Holmes expressed that this report covers a lot of information, and asked group members to review the report and assess whether it represents what the group wants (at least at this point in time of the group’s dialogue)

- John Brancato – provided comments and edits to Chris in a document, and thought the report did a lot to frame what docs know is a large amount of the issue
- Daniel Freess and Dock Fox made corrections to their names and affiliations
  - Dr. Freess – represents CCEP in this group
- Dock commented understanding the background was really important
  - If the group is to make ED boarding our focus, the report needs to elaborate on that section more
- Timeline for edits
  - Chris asked the group for a first round of feedback by Monday December 18<sup>th</sup> if possible
  - Chris asked for members to actually put wording in, instead of just putting feedback it in a comment
  - The week of December 18, Chris will send a version with the changes tracked to the entire group
  - Second round of changes due by January 3
  - Discuss and finalize the report January 17

### **Further Subgroups**

- Chris said that the group so far has talked a lot about measurements but the real work of this group is about solutions
- Discharge subgroup: chairs identified - Anumeha Singh and Beth Liebhardt
  - Anumeha and Beth are meeting, then will send out an open invite to the group to join the subcommittee
  - Hoping to clear the outflow barriers such as transitioning to rehab or nursing homes
  - Discharge lounge ?
  - Mag Morelli, Mairead Painter, and Daniel Freess expressed interest in joining the subgroup
- Prioritization subgroup: chair identified - Dock Fox
  - This group would brainstorm ideas and narrow them down, and make sure they get through
  - Such a broad topic, works with closely at the bedside
  - Would love a co-chair if anyone would like to step up to help with this subgroup
- Protection from Liability
  - Michael is going to reach out to legal counsel to get guidance on this / advice on how to move forward
  - Lower priority getting started than the other groups, more information to follow

### **Looking Ahead to 2024, Action Items**

- Chris encouraged folks to take a look at the legislation in 2007
  - ED reform was tried before and it's both encouraging and discouraging
- Barbara brought up presentations – MIH, pediatric UCCs, etc. and asked if this was something that would still be of interest to the group
  - Chris expressed continued interest in this
  - Barbara mentioned that the MIH piece resides in DPH
- Chris will send out the draft report with feedback dates

- Melia will send out the monthly meeting invite to ED working group members
- Chris adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm