



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board
61 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0061

Noah Nesin
Chair

Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board
Tuesday March 23, 2021 @ 10:30 am
Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

Council members in attendance: Peter Hayes, Frank Johnson, Kenneth Mcall III (Mac), Noah Nesin, Jennifer Reck, Julia Redding, Rhonda Selvin & Susan Wehry (Total = 8)

Council members absent:
(Council seat 0 vacant)

Others Present:

Advisory Council: Kate Ende, Jennifer Kent, Christina Moylan, Rob Nadeau, Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez & Anne Wright

Employee Health & Wellness: Joel Hill & Roberta Leonard

All Others: Newell Augur, Kevin Bourque, Ben Chandhok, Nick Doherty, Chris Feeney, Caroline Fisher O'Neill, Matthew Guilbault, Karynlee Harrington, Kristine Ossenfort, Anne Robinson & Ann Woloson

Agenda Item	Discussion;	Action/Next Steps
I. Call to Order (10:34 am)	Kenneth Mcall III called the meeting to order	
II. Introductions		
III. Approval of the Minutes (February 23, 2021)		Noah Nesin made motion to accept the meeting minutes Peter Hayes seconded the motion; one abstention, Motion passed.
IV. Monthly Business a) Presenters		
i. Susan Wehry Efforts in Maine to Create Age Friendly Health System (UNE)	Information contained in written reports; highlights and discussion noted below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>What's AgingME:</u>A 5-year geriatrics workforce enhancement program (GWEP) funded by the federal government (HRSA). A collaborative statewide partnership linking academia, health systems and community-based organizations serving older adults. A leader in promoting wellness and health literacy among older adults. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>4Ms</u>: WhatMatters, Medicines, Mind Mobility, Empower older Adults, age capable workforce and transform primary care practice, • <u>Same Language</u>: What are psychotropics? What are antipsychotics? • <u>Medications-Psychotropics</u>: Sedative Hypnotics, mood stabilizers, anti-anxiety, antidepressants and antipsychotics • <u>Problem of Antipsychotic Medications in persons with dementia</u>: No "anti-agitation/anti-aggression" medication, off-label use 'OK' risk/benefit equation more critical. • <u>Black box warning</u>: Antipsychotics increases risk of mortality and stroke. Side effects are considerable: sedation, stiffness, difficulty walking, dehydration, falls, chest infections, and accelerated cognitive decline. • <u>CMS has Made Reduction of Off-label use of Antipsychotic Medications a National Priority</u>: Maine Ranks 50th in the USA including US territories. <p>The use of a waste free formulary to educate older adults as well as primary care providers.</p>	
<p>ii. Update on Pending Rx Legislation in Maine - Jennifer Reck (NASHP)</p>	<p>Information contained in written reports; highlights and discussion noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>2021 Maine Rx Bills: An Act to Lower Health Care Costs</u> through the Establishment of the Office of Affordable Health Care – LD 120, Sen. Jackson. This bill establishes the Office of Affordable Health Care, which must hold an annual public hearing on cost trends, analyze cost growth and spending trends, and submit an annual report. LD 120 would provide staffing assistance to the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board • <u>An Act to Increase Prescription Drug Pricing Transparency – LD 686, Sen. Vitelli</u>: This bill changes how and when manufacturers provide information on drug prices to the state. Requires manufacturers to report to the state only if notified by MDHO that they must do so. This aligns with current reporting procedures for PBMs and wholesalers. 	<p>Noah Nesin brought up adding standing Agenda item tracking legislation that effects the board and Jennifer Reck to facilitate.</p> <p>Noah Nesin made the motion to have a Maine Prescription Drug Advisory Board (MPDAB) member testify on certain legislative bills that the Board supports or does not support Kenneth Mcall III seconded; Motion passed.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>An Act to Create the Insulin Safety Net Program – LD 673, Sen. Breen</u>: This bill requires insulin manufacturers to establish procedures to make insulin available to pharmacies for dispensing to eligible individuals who are in urgent need of insulin or who need access to an affordable insulin supply. • Modeled after a similar program in Minnesota that recently survived a legal challenge from PhRMA. Hearing in • <u>An Act to Protect Maine Consumers from Unsupported Price Increases on Prescription Medicines by Creating an Independent Review Process – LD 675, Sen. Claxton</u>: • This bill fines pharmaceutical manufacturers whose drug price increases are unsupported by new clinical evidence. LD 675 impacts frequently prescribed, high-cost drugs and uses existing data sources (an annual report published by ICER). • <u>An Act to Prevent Excessive Prices for Prescription Drugs – LD 1117, Sen. Jackson</u>: This bill prohibits manufacturers from hiking prices for generic and off-patent drugs. Price increases that surpass a threshold identified in the law trigger corrective action by the Attorney General. • <u>An Act to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing – LR 1757</u>: This bill authorizes the Bureau of Insurance to establish international reference rates for the most costly drugs in the state. The Bureau determines the reference rates based on prices in Canada’s four largest provinces and sets the legal upper payment limit based on the lowest price in the provinces. Bill was pre-filed by Sen. Claxton and is with Revisor’s Office. 	
<p>V. Other Business</p> <p>a. Creating a Mission & Vision Statement</p>	<p>Discussion highlights below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A breakout group will be determined to work on creating the mission and vision statements and bring it back to the board for review. 	<p>Kenneth Mcall III motioned to move creating a mission & vision statement to April Meeting Peter Hayes seconded; Motion passed.</p>
<p>b. Open Discussion</p>	<p>Discussion highlights below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Group discussed breaking up tasks for handling LD’s</u>: Ann Woloson is willing to assist whoever is chosen to present to the legislature. Kenneth Mcall III is willing to draft the presentation to send to the board for approval. The Legislative meeting for 	<p>Peter Hayes motioned to support LD 120- An Act to Lower Health Care Costs through the Establishment of the Office of Affordable Health Care Kenneth Mcall III seconded; Motion passed.</p>



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	LD 120 is March 30th. Kristine Ossenfort indicated this hearing may be rescheduled. Noah Nesin suggested being informed by legislatures action on these LD's instead of making a decision on the rest of the bills. Susan Wehry discussed for the rest of the proposed legislation that looking at the LD's and deciding which ones the board would or should support and focus its efforts on instead of an up or down vote.	
VI. Education	No Education Planned This Month	
VII. Adjourn (12:07 pm)		Kenneth Mcall III made motion to adjourn; Noah Nesin seconded the motion; Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: April 27, 2021