

## Statewide Quality Advisory Committee (SQAC) Meeting

Monday October 19, 2015

3:00pm - 3:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

### **Location:**

Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA)  
501 Boylston Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02116

**Chair:** Áron Boros (CHIA)

**Committee Member Attendees:** Dr. James Feldman, Dolores Mitchell, and Dr. Michael Sherman

**Committee Attendees by Phone:** Dianne Anderson, Dr. Richard Lopez, Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Katie Shea Barrett

**Other Attendees:** Kristina Philipson (CHIA), Wei Ying (for Dana Gelb Safran)

1. Chair Áron Boros opened the meeting. He stated that the first purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed changes to the SQMS. He first discussed the changes to the mandated measure sets - the addition of four HEDIS measures and the removal of two HEDIS measures by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the retirement of two process measures by CMS. Additionally, he proposed the removal of seven process measures that CMS changed from required to voluntarily reporting. His recommendation was due to concerns about data completeness and quality once scores are voluntarily reported. Chair Boros also noted the addition of 21 hospital measures proposed by MAHP and MHA that were voted on during the previous meeting. Finally, he recommended removing the Health Plan All-Cause Readmission measure, as this measure is only reported at the health plan level, and therefore does not support provider quality improvement or tiering, the current purposes of the SQMS. The SQMS contains several provider-specific readmission measures. Committee members agreed with these recommendations.
2. Chair Boros said that the second purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the SQAC's 2015 Final Report. He gave a brief description of the draft report and asked committee members for comments.
  - a. Dolores Mitchell requested that the first priority be renamed "Appropriateness of Hospital-Based Care" rather than "Appropriateness of Facility-Based Care" for clarity.
  - b. No other committee members proposed changes to the report.
  - c. Chair Boros took a roll-call vote for approval of the report. All present members and members on the phone voted to approve the report, including the proposed

SQMS changes: Áron Boros, Dolores Mitchell, Dr. Michael Sherman, Dr. James Feldman, Dianne Anderson, Dr. Richard Lopez, and Amy Whitcomb Slemmer.

3. Dr. James Feldman asked whether there has been public feedback about the SQAC's work. Chair Boros responded that feedback at the Health Policy Commission's Cost Trends Hearings was positive, with a lot of agreement that quality work is important. Chair Boros said that the SQAC and CHIA should determine the resources to put toward using the SQMS to inform providers about their performance relative to other providers and toward informing consumer choice. Dr. Michael Sherman said that presenting information to consumers is important from both a cost and quality perspective.
4. The meeting was adjourned.