

**MINUTES OF THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND  
PATIENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of December 16, 2013**

**MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION**

**THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PATIENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE OF  
MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION**  
Center for Health Information and Analysis, Daley Room  
Two Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

---

**Docket: Monday, December 16, 2013, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

---

**PROCEEDINGS**

The eighth meeting of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission's Quality Improvement and Patient Protection (QIPP) Committee was held on Monday, December 16, 2013 at the Center for Health Information and Analysis located at Two Boylston Street, Boston, MA.

Members present were Ms. Marylou Sudders (Chair), Dr. Wendy Everett, Dr. Carole Allen, and Dr. Ann Hwang, designee for Mr. John Polanowicz, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Veronica Turner was absent from this meeting.

Executive Director, Mr. David Seltz, and the Director of the Office of Patient Protection (OPP), Ms. Jenifer Bosco, also participated in the meeting.

Chair Sudders called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. She noted that the meeting would occur in two parts: (1) a public hearing on proposed amendments to OPP regulations and (2) a meeting of the QIPP Committee.

**ITEM 1: Public Hearing on amendments to the Office of Patient Protection (OPP) Regulations**

Chair Sudders opened a period of public comment on the proposed amendments to the OPP regulations. She noted that the HPC would accept written comments through December 24, 2013 at 12:00 PM.

The following individuals testified during the public hearing. To hear their testimony in full, please refer to the audio file available on the HPC's website under "Public Hearings and Regulations."

1. Jacqueline Mitus, Senior Vice President of Clinical Develop and Strategy at McKesson Health Solutions
2. Jonas Goldenberg, Director of Clinical Issues and Continuing Education for the National Association of Social Workers
3. Sarah Chiaramida, Vice President of Legal Affairs for the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans
4. Clare McGorrian, Senior Staff Attorney for Health Care For All/Health Law Advocates

5. David Matteodo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems

Following the testimony, Chair Sudders thanked members of the public for their participation. Ms. Jen Bosco, OPP Director, reminded members of the public again that written comments would be received by mail and email through 12:00 PM on December 24, 2013.

## **ITEM 2: Approval of minutes**

Chair Sudders reviewed the minutes and proposed a change on the final page, adjusting "November" to "December" to reflect the proper meeting dates. With this change, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 2013. Dr. Everett made the motion and Dr. Allen seconded. Members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

## **ITEM 3: Update on mandatory nurse overtime monitoring by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)**

Chair Sudders began that mandatory nurse overtime was one of the first tasks completed by the HPC. She turned the meeting over to Dr. Hwang (EOHHS) to present an update on mandatory nurse overtime. The presentation can be found on the HPC's website at <http://www.mass.gov/anf/budget-taxes-and-procurement/oversight-agencies/health-policy-commission/meeting-agendas-and-materials/committee-meetings/quality-improvement-and-patient-protection.html>.

Following the presentation, Committee members briefly discussed the data presented. Dr. Everett asked Don Thieme, an audience member representing the Massachusetts Council of Community Hospitals, whether his organization had data that could help the state create a baseline on mandatory nurse overtime. Mr. Thieme responded that the baseline could exist for 75% of hospitals.

Chair Sudders inquired into the total number of hospitals in Massachusetts. Mr. Iyah Romm, Director of System Performance and Strategic Investment, responded that there were 70-90 hospitals.

Chair Sudders asked for any comments from members of the public.

Mr. Thieme stated that the regulations on mandatory nurse overtime are intended to take the stress out of the nursing profession. He stated that, when examining the data, nurses in Massachusetts are not working a lot of hours of mandatory overtime. He also noted that there does not seem to be a surge in hours during periods of poor health, such as flu season. He reiterated the need to review a full year's worth of data to better understand the use of mandatory overtime.

## **ITEM 4: Adjournment**

Chair Sudders thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 10:23 AM.