

TO: Maine Worksite Wellness Initiative (MWWI) Year 2 (2010-11) Members and Prospective Members
FR: R.H. Ross, Convener
DA: 21 June 2011
RE: Year 2 Meeting 7 Write-up
Thursday, 9 June 2011, 3:00-4:30pm, Pharmacy Building, Room 217, 16 Stevens Avenue, Portland, Maine

Present: Tom Algozzine, Larry Catlett, Jonathan Klane, Jaime Nicole Laliberte, Lynn Lavorgna-Landry, Del Leonard, Bill Primmerman, Robert Ross, Willow Sherwood, Amy Wagner. **Regrets:** Joel Allumbaugh, Janet Blum, Abigail S. DiPasquale, Tom Downing, Dean Paterson.

Robert Ross hosted Meeting 7, and its webinar component, at the University of New England Pharmacy Building, Room 217, 16 Stevens Avenue, Portland, Maine. Meeting 7 was dedicated to Health Care Cost Drivers. **NB:** for all Year 1 MWWI docs go to <http://www.une.edu/mhprc/projects/mwwi/index.cfm>, for Year 2 to <http://www.une.edu/mhprc/projects/mwwi/yeartwo.cfm>.

- 1. Roundtable.** Bob Ross opened the Roundtable recognizing Willow Sherwood (whose name he mis-pronounced and mis-spelled, very sorry), a guest attendee who has recently taken over (from Jaime Laliberte) as Executive Director of the Wellness Council of Maine. See her Bio at <http://www.wellnesscouncilofmaine.org/About-Us/>. After quick introductions around the table, real and virtual, Del Leonard, who briefed as at Meeting 5, mentioned his CSP certification quest and Lynn Lavorgna-Landry called attention one last time to Maine General Workplace Health's upcoming Work and Stress seminar (half-day, through 1:00pm) to be offered June 23rd by Healthy People of the Kennebec Valley (for information or to register, contact Laura Holweger at holweger@mainegeneral.org or call 207-626-7255). Tom Algozzine reported that he was working with adherence issues raised by New Hampshire and Maine Medicaid, which wants to put restrictions on cholesterol lowering meds, smoking cessation agents, COPD treatments, and MS drugs. Jonathan Klane described working on his book on the integration of OSH and WHP and mentioned teaching a recent conference seminar on the subject and exchanging information with Year 1 Meeting 2 Briefer, Glorian Sorensen, whose own work is likewise focused, e.g. at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%20Sorensen%20%22Chronic%20Disease%20in%20the%20Workplace%22>. Amy Wagner spoke highly, e.g. that he asked good questions and seemed excited by his work, of the new Maine Commissioner for Labor, retired Lt. Gen. Robert J. Winglass (<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/06/03/politics/state-house/maine-labor-commissioner-takes-oath-of-office/>), whom she met at a recent MORA (Maine Occupational Research Agenda) meeting. Jaime Laliberte mentioned working with Willow Sherwood to promote the 3rd Annual Wellness Council of Maine Workplace Wellness Leadership Symposium, Sunday River, Bethel, Maine, October 13 & 14 (register at <http://www.wellnesscouncilofmaine.org/Events/>). Besides the Sunday River conference, where she mentioned that members Larry Catlett, Tom Downing, Jaime Laliberte, and Andy Spaulding will speak and participate along with WELCOA president David Hunnicut (http://www.welcoa.org/consulting/David_Bio.pdf), Willow Sherwood described the Maine Council's upcoming Breakfast Roundtable Discussion, July 11, 8am-11am, The Aroostook Medical Center, Presque Isle (register at <http://www.wellnesscouncilofmaine.org/Events/>), and a Panel Discussion about Mental Health in the Workplace July 26th @ the Wellness Council of Androscoggin County (<http://twitter.com/#!/WellnessMaine/status/73753469676306432>). Bill Primmerman encouraged members to work with Bill McPeck's summer Taskforce, to wit, from the Year 2 Meeting 6 Write-up paragraph 3:

Bill McPeck gave an historical sketch of the Maine Wellness Council (<http://www.wellnesscouncilofmaine.org/>) and offshoot, the Maine Leadership Group on Worksite Wellness, which in 2010 produced the "Criteria for Worksite Wellness <http://www.healthycommunitiesme.org/assets/files/Worksite%20Wellness/100808%20Workshop%20Materials/MWWC%20Criteria%20Document%20Final.pdf>), from which came the employer premium reduction/tax credit concept. The problem is that if a small employer has community rated health insurance, the premium cannot be changed (even though a smoking cessation program does get that employer a tax credit). It is not established yet what an employer will have to do to get the credit. Bill wants to generalize Andy's micro-model and, to that end, **proposed a Leadership Group and the Maine Worksite Wellness Initiative collaboration around how to translate the HERO Scorecard into a document which can be used by businesses to make them eligible, i.e. define what they actually have to do, to get the premium discount/tax credit. The goal would be to create a document for the Bureau of Insurance which describes "best thinking" on the subject of how-to-qualify**, and not just for the self-insured employers but also for the community-rated ones. Bill suggested that a Taskforce or Working group might be established from members of the Leadership Group and Maine Worksite Wellness

Initiative to frame out a document around which to assemble a statewide Meeting, from proceedings of which a Whitepaper could be written and issued, a very concrete "Guide for Rule-making" to specify what the employer premium reduction/tax credit criteria should be. **Bill promised to produce and provide Bob with a "Call for volunteers" to constitute such a Taskforce to be circulated to MWWI members.** Since the ruling will likely be made by the Commission in September, the Taskforce would have to assemble by late June. Meantime, the Bureau of Insurance is awaiting appointment of a new Commish.

2. **Briefing.** The Briefing, given by MWWI member Tom Algozzine, PharmD, BCPS, Medical Outcomes Specialist, Pfizer Inc., Manchester, NH, and was titled "Health Care Reform: Changing the Current U.S. Marketplace." Tom explained why Pfizer is interested in the health reform, presently the provisions of the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA, <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/introduction/index.html>); how access will be improved by a variety of initiatives by 2014, starting in 2010 with the requirement that Plans which provide dependent coverage must cover unmarried dependents until the age of 26 years; how Health care reform will expand through 2014 and beyond; how key health reform provisions for the pharmaceutical industry include closing the patient "donut hole" to 25% by 2020; how by 2013 manufacturer contributions and government subsidies will phase down patient coinsurance in the gap from 100 to 25%; how closing the donut hole may improve adherence; how by 2013 Medicare Part D must identify enrollees eligible for medication therapy management (MTM); how new plans must provide patients covered on private insurance plans with services without copayments including recommended preventive services (rated A or B) by the US Preventives Services Task Force, vaccinations recommended by the CDC, and preventive services for infants, children, adolescents, and women recommended by the Health Resources and Services Administration; that Americans receive <.5 the preventive services recommended; how the ACA supports comparative effectiveness research to help eliminate waste and variability of care in Medicare reimbursement with (starting 2010) the Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute, PCORI) and (starting 2112) the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); how the ACA supports the role of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) in promoting high quality health care, including the use of electronic health records; how the 2011 Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act supports the implementation of information technology by individual practices; how covering the uninsured is not a windfall for the pharmaceutical industry; what are the pro's and cons of health care reform for key players (patients, health plans, doctors, hospitals); and how ACA expands access, focuses on prevention, and promotes innovation in health care quality and delivery;
3. **Presentation.** Paula Rogers, Government Relations Manager for Anthem BCBS in Maine and NH, was to present the "Insurer perspective on Cost Drivers" but could not because of a last minute conflict.

Mark your calendars please for final Meeting 8 (devoted to mental health in the workplace) at 3:00-4:30pm on 23 June 2011, location UNE Westbrook campus, Portland. Maine.