

DIABETES COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 14, 2020

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Members Present

Mary Pat Bertacchi
Rita Kalyani, MD
Vivienne Rose, MD (co-chair)
Teresa Titus-Howard
Pamela Xenakis (co-chair)
Jessica Kiel
Julie Maneen
Sara Vazer
Pam Williams

Members Not Present

Maryland Department of Health Staff Present

Sadie Peters, MD
Anne Langley
Lisa Ellis
Sue Vaeth

1. Review Agenda Items

The Diabetes Committee met via webinar on 10/14/2020. The meeting was called to order by Pamela Xenakis at 5:05 p.m. Dr. Rose, reviewed the meeting agenda items. There were no changes requested.

2. Roll Call/Introductions

A quorum of the Diabetes Committee was present. The co-chairs welcomed new members to the committee, Sara Vazer and Pam Williams.

3. Approve September 16, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Vivian Rose made a motion to approve the September 16, 2020 committee meeting minutes and Jessica Keil seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention from Sara Vazer, who was not on the Diabetes Committee at that time.

4. Discussion of Follow-up Items from the September Meeting

COVID-19 Messaging

The Committee liked the COVID-19 messaging document developed by the MDH Diabetes Team. It was distributed to Local Health Improvement Coalitions. The Committee discussed how they could help to distribute it further. Ideas included sharing the document with professional organizations and Facebook groups, with leadership in organizations committee members are associated with, MDPCP. Diabetes team staff gave consent for committee members to share the document.

Insulin Costs:

The Committee discussed advocating for lower insulin costs, and whether a bill for an insulin cap will go before the legislature in the coming year. There was agreement that insurers and employers need to take steps to reduce copays resulting in reduced costs in the long run.

Committee members agreed to do the following:

- Review email from 9/17/2020 from Mary Pat Raimondi and at Insulinhelp.org about how the 4 leading pharma companies are assisting people to afford insulin. Send this information to physicians, care coordinators, MDPCP.
- Review the letter written by the Committee to the legislature supporting a low-cost insulin bill from last year. Consider writing a letter to pharmaceutical companies asking them to lower costs, using some of the information in the legislative letter.

Provider Outreach to Provider Organizations to increase awareness of DPP:

Pam Xenakis noted she is working with the Carroll County Health Department on a QR Code to help market the National DPP as a weight loss program. Recordings of a webinar series to educate clinicians and others about diabetes and prediabetes was sent to each committee member. Sadie Peters noted the Diabetes Team is considering creating a clinical quality task force to determine where we want to go as a state regarding quality of care for prediabetes and diabetes. Anne Langley noted the team is working to improve MDH's website to make it easier to find information and classes and invited the committee to continue suggesting ideas to improve provider awareness and referrals.

The Committee did not have time to discuss the remaining agenda item.

Pamela Xenakis volunteered to be the Diabetes Committee representative for the Health and Wellness Council's Ad Hoc Legislative Committee.

5. Review Accomplishments and Identify New Goals and Objectives

The Committee did not have time to discuss this agenda item.

6. Adjournment

Interim committee meetings will be held 1 month before the quarterly meetings (3rd Wednesday) from 4 – 5 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

**Next Diabetes Committee meeting:
December 16, 2020, 4:00 – 5:00 pm**