

March 19, 2025

Date:	Wednesday, March 19, 2025	Type:	Online
Start Time:	10:23 am	End Time:	11:31 am
Leaders:	Peta-Gaye Tomlinson (Chair), Denese Smith-Munroe (DPH Liaison)		
Participants:	26	Next Meeting:	April 16, 2025 (online)

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

QPM Chair Peta-Gaye Tomlinson: (1) introduced herself and DPH liaison Denese Smith-Munroe, (2) reviewed the charge of the committee, (3) reviewed the meeting agenda, and (4) noted QPM's approach for creating a positive and productive meeting climate.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Review of Prior Meeting Notes. The team approved the February meeting notes with no changes.

QUALITY (Q)

Quality Improvement (QI) Spotlight

Joanne Urso and her colleagues from UConn Health presented their QI project to improve oral health. See [this link](#) for the full presentation. Highlights included:

- Oral health is a key part of overall health. Untreated oral disease can lead to systemic infections, such as heart disease, stroke and an increased risk of certain cancers, due to bacteria from the mouth entering the blood stream. Poor oral health can also affect self-esteem, nutrition, and mental health.
- The QI project sought to achieve the goal of 90% of clients referred for oral health examination / screening.
- Project interventions included: educating clients on the importance of oral education; coordinating oral health services for clients including assisting with transportation; assessing and addressing factors hindering dental appointments; and documenting / monitoring efforts and appointments.
- As of February 2025, UConn Health exceeded their goal, with 90.97% of clients referred.

Participants discussed the project and its implications:

- Obstacles to oral health care include fear of going to the dentist, the cost of care, and the length of time to get appointments. Staff were able to address these obstacles through education, Ryan White funding to cover the cost of care, and referring clients to The Health Collective. Some clients want to schedule appointments with UConn Health, but there is a long waitlist for dental appointments.
- Peta-Gaye noted that Ryan White's medical case managers play a critical role in coordinating care and working together to improve clients' health. The results of this project are impressive, with 91% referred. Ruth Murray appreciated seeing that The Health Collective's collaboration with UConn Health is showing results.

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Planning the October Quality Summit

QPM will host the next Quality Summit on October 15 at the Chrysalis Center in Hartford. This will be the first in-person Summit since 2019. The group discussed ways to organize the Summit, including opportunities for in-person engagement. Suggestions included:

- **Keynote speaker(s).** The Center for [Quality Improvement and Innovation \(CQII\)](#) has two dynamic speakers: Justin and Khallil. Dadie Dorsinvil-Sonceau suggested that they could address change management and QI – how to help QI teams implement changes in the face of resistance. Peta-Gaye will follow up on making a technical assistance request to HRSA in order to invite CQII to present. Consuelo Munoz suggested a speaker from ACT on the HOPWA Interoperability project (that addresses housing).
- **QI projects.** Peta-Gaye encouraged participants to consider presenting on their QI projects. See [this link](#) for the latest list of QI projects in the QPM priorities areas of PrEP, disparities, and housing. Participants suggested inviting Anna Pelc (who [presented at QPM in February](#)) – and to consider an option for her to present via Zoom if she is not able to travel. Dr. Virata suggested recruiting community members to present.
- **Activities / engagement.** Participants suggested different ways to make the summit engaging:
 - Start with an ice breaker.
 - Have pop quizzes or a QI bingo card with prizes. This could include inviting participants to find different items or information (e.g., scavenger bingo with visuals or information from vendors).
 - Encourage people to take photos with visuals or colleagues.
 - Include activities during any breakout sessions that connect participants.
- **Materials.** Print packets with the agenda and QI resources.

Participants then shared via a Whiteboard: **What topic / presentation / activity / presenter would you be most excited about seeing at the Summit?** In addition to the suggestions noted above, responses included:

- Best practices for data collection
- Effective strategies for data collection and reporting
- How to address common obstacles in ensuring accurate, reliable data for performance evaluation
- Why data is important - focused towards "frontline" workers
- Recognition of data and QI champions; maybe awards
- Celebrate successes and quality achievements
- Success stories
- Healthcare leadership and accountability in performance measures
- Addressing implementation challenges for long-acting antiretroviral agents within clinics
- Quality assurance (QA) vs. quality improvement (QI)
- Trivia for learning - whiteboards, groups, and points with a winner!
- Making connections between programs who could learn from each other in an ongoing fashion
- Movement around the room

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- Music!!!
- Goodie bags!
- Pictures onscreen / moments in the Summit
- Good food, snacks, tea/ coffee, seltzer water along with sodas
- Breaks
- Support for new presenters (community members or others who haven't presented in public before)

Peta-Gaye asked for volunteers for a **planning team** to help plan the details for the Quality Summit. Based on past years, this group would meet 3-4 times starting in late spring. Melinda Vazquez-Yopp, Daniel Davidson, Dr. Virata and Dadie Dorsinvil-Sonceau agreed to participate. Dave will be in touch next month to organize a planning team meeting.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (PM)

Not discussed at this meeting.

MEETING FEEDBACK

Participants completed a meeting feedback poll. All respondents "felt the committee meeting I attended was well organized and ran smoothly" and 93% "felt comfortable participating in the committee meeting."

One thing they liked BEST about the meeting was:

- Discussion / engagement / sharing. Drawing in participation; Engagement; Meeting was very interactive; The meeting was dynamic, and engaged the participants; Discussion; Sharing information across agencies.
- Using Whiteboard for planning the Summit. Whiteboard activity to brainstorm ideas; White board was good.
- The QI Spotlight presentation. The presentation.
- Planning the Summit. The planning for the summit and the new ideas! I'm new to this with a new role and trying to learn and this made it a bit clearer :)

One suggestion to IMPROVE future meetings:

- Be a little clearer about the goals of the QI Summit and how outcomes can be measured — helpful to guide its planning.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance records are kept on file with the CHPC support staff.