

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 04 FY 04/05
04 FY 04/05
DATE August 29, 2003

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC PURCHASERS'
STEERING GROUP**

WHEREAS, health care costs are rising rapidly and challenging Maine's capacity to provide accessible, quality health care; and

WHEREAS, state and local tax dollars pay the premium for nearly 500,000 Mainers; and

WHEREAS, collaborative purchasing by public entities will create economies of scale and improve service quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of Maine, do hereby establish the Public Purchasers' Steering Group.

1. Purpose and Charge

The Steering Group will:

- a. Beginning January 1, 2004, submit to the Advisory Council on Health System Development a consolidated public purchasers expenditure report outlining all funds expended in the most recent state fiscal year. The report will detail for each agency the costs for hospital outpatient and inpatient physician services, prescription drugs, professional services, long-term care and other services and administrative costs.
- b. Identify, establish and implement a joint purchasing strategy for health care services, including, but not limited to: pharmacy services; mental health and substance abuse services; centers of excellence; dental benefits; disease management services; and comprehensive health benefit plans.

- c. Develop and implement a health improvement strategy common to all purchasing agencies. Elements of this strategy may include: utilizing and expanding activities presently underway among individual purchasing units. Identifying and partnering with existing community-based resources, and developing innovative approaches to reach populations who are often overlooked.
- d. Adopt a common set of valid and reliable, comparative quality metrics for purposes of communicating to beneficiaries and providers.
- e. Establish a standard policy for differential payment strategies to validly and reliably identify quality providers and requiring all carriers contracting with public entities to implement such strategies.
- f. Establish standard procedures and protocols for utilization and medical management of benefits and requiring all carriers contracting with public entities to implement these procedures.
- g. Investigate the feasibility and appropriateness of a coordinated competitive bidding process for primary insurers or contracts with integrated delivery systems.
- h. The initial priorities for the Steering Group are:
 1. To determine the feasibility of a group purchasing pharmacy program.
 2. To develop a common health education and health improvement strategy for public employees.
 3. To adopt a common set of valid and reliable, comparative quality metrics.

2. Members

The Public Purchasers' Steering Group shall be comprised of up to ten members. The Governor shall appoint one member of the Steering Group from each of the following organizations:

- Maine Education Association Benefits Trust
- Maine Medicaid Program (MaineCare)
- Maine Municipal Employees Benefits Trust
- Maine School Management Association
- Director of Employee Health for the State of Maine
- Office of Health Policy and Finance
- University of Maine System

In addition, the Governor may appoint 3 additional members from other public sector agencies.

The chairperson of the Steering Group shall be selected by a simple majority of the Steering Group.

3. Reports

Each January 31st, the Steering Group shall make a formal report to the Governor describing achievements during the prior year and establishing goals for the year ahead.

4. Meetings

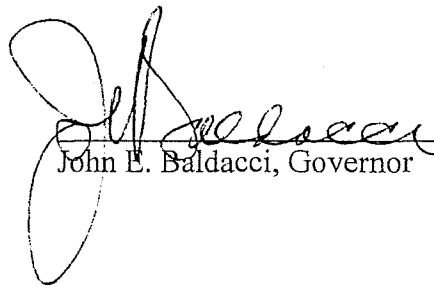
The Steering Group shall meet bi-monthly, or as often as the Chairperson determines is necessary.

5. Resources and Support

The Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance and other state agencies shall provide any necessary support to assist the Steering Group in its mission. Members of the Steering Group shall serve without compensation.

6. Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is August 29, 2003.


John E. Baldacci, Governor