



STATE OF MAINE
DIRIGO HEALTH AGENCY
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PAUL R. LePAGE
GOVERNOR

KARYNLEE HARRINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: April 9, 2013

TO: Senator Gatwick, Representative Treat and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services

FROM: Karynlee Harrington, Executive Director, Dirigo Health Agency

CC: Colleen McCarthyReid, Legislative Analyst
Joe Bruno, Chair Dirigo Health Agency Board of Trustees
William Kilbreth, Deputy Director, Dirigo Health Agency

RE: Committee Questions from the March 26, 2013 Budget Work Session

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1. An estimate for staffing needs and costs to provide assistance for Dirigo enrollees needing to transition to other health coverage for up to 6 months (through June 30, 2014).

As part of the Agency's transition planning activities we have started to notify our members in all our coverage programs beginning with our January 2013 renewals. The DirigoChoice renewal package includes a notification of the transition and basic information regarding the health insurance exchange. In addition to the notification that is part of the renewal package we are also scheduled to send reminder notices to all our members the months of May, July, September and October. Beginning this month we are making outbound calls to our members in the individual and sole proprietor categories. We will assess the need for additional communication and outreach as time goes on. Given close to ten years' experience with our members we anticipate and have planned for a significant amount of activity in assisting our members with transitional issues this fall. We are also planning to employ at least two full time employees to deal with transition issues that extend beyond December 31, 2013. We will have a better sense of our staffing needs and the expense associated with this effort this fall. The 2013-14 proposed budget request provides the flexibility in our personal services line to adjust as the need requires.

2. Information on current staffing levels for Dirigo Health Agency compared to budgeted levels/legislative head count.

The Dirigo Health Agency has Legislative authorization in the budget is for 13 full time State employees (FTE). The Personal Services line in the proposed budget for FY2013-14 reflects 13 FTEs. The Agency's actual headcount is currently down to 5 and I do not anticipate a change in the number of these FTEs though December 31, 2013. The Agency also supports in our All Other category 5 temporary staff through a staffing contract.

3. Information on agency's transition plan for wrapping up its operations and need for staff and resources beyond 12/31/14.

See response to number one.

4. Information/detail on the 2 MQF positions proposed to remain after 12/31/13.

The two positions in the FY2014-2015 budget are a director and a program coordinator. When the director resigned from the Agency in May 2011 the Executive Director of the Agency who is legislatively responsible for the oversight of the MQF took on the day to day operations of the forum. Also, just recently the program coordinator resigned. Assuming the MQF continues beyond December 2013 the Agency will move forward with filling the vacant positions. The structure of the staff for the MQF going forward will largely depend on the amount of funding remaining December 31, 2013 and the priorities established by the Board and the MQF-Advisory Council based on the level of funding.