

MEAPA BOD Meeting Agenda

Thursday September 10, 2026 6:00- 8:00 pm In Person
Starlight Lounge inside Luna Rooftop Bar, Portland ME

Attendance: (In person) Kathleen Moneghan, Erin Muthig, Kim Caldwell, Stephanie Podolski, Angela Leclerc, Stephen Blessington, Hannah Stonebreaker, Joseph Sala, Rachael Dyer, (Virtually) Katie Doughty, Katherine (Kat) Dobrovolny. (Absent: Rhianna Jones)

6:08 PM **Call to order/Board Introductions**

6:11 PM **GAC Updates – Kathleen**

- This year, no new legislation is planned. Focus on individual and clinician/hospital organization collaborative efforts that affect patient care and access to care and protecting the recent bills.
- MooseRidge Associates contract, \$28k for this-the long legislative session-Oct-April/May. Amounts to approx. 4k/month. For bill monitoring, delivering testimony as MEAPA representative, ongoing collaborative work with MMA/MOA/MNPA etc.
 - GAC electronically discussed and endorsed, full board previously voted to approve continued contract. Kathleen to sign new contract.
- AAPA Grant: Kathleen will be applying for full \$28k of MooseRidge Contract, though low likelihood to obtain without new legislative bill. Kathleen discussed with AAPA, who voiced decreasing fund allocation for Compact, Title change etc given increasing momentum.
 - AAPA was asked what our next legislative advocacy steps are since we've already achieved Title Change, PA Compact and Practice Modernization (OTP), no recommendations were provided.
 - AAPA grant application has new procedure, more lengthy application, shorter timeframe to submit, which may limit competition.
 - Kim offered there is some risk in being too PA practice focused in our legislative efforts, we could build a reputation for being self-serving. A year or so to focus on collaborative bills focused on patient care will help preserve MEAPA's reputation politically.
 - Stephanie Inquired if we discussed with AAPA possibly putting forward legislation to allow PAs to collaborate with PA's who have already reached their 4,000 hrs of clinical practice, instead of just Physician oversight for early career PAs. Which would create parity with NP's longstanding ability to do this. Kathleen discussed with Meghan at AAPA and the feeling was to hold off for now given the contentious Nursing Board of Licensure NP rule making process that is underway. Stephanie also raised concern for PA/NP leapfrog perspective being something worth avoiding, while also not losing the progress we've made thus far.
 - Kim raised the concern that parity with NPs can't be accomplished while we are still regulated by the Physician board of licensure, and brought up, Laura's prior recommendation for putting forward an independent PA Board of Licensure bill this session, understanding that the two medical/osteopathic boards are merging into one

“Board of Medicine”, however timing administrative burden and increased cost of licensure are still a concern, especially given the impending launch of the Interstate Licensure compact, making this not the ideal time.

- Kathleen echoed concerns with new PA Practice authority bills, noting we are finally in a “good” place with MMA/MOA and other physician lead orgs in state and that we should be holding pending NP rule making decisions.
 - Kathleen notes that MEAPA has great Momentum as a Constituent Organization (CO) and that we have the national eyes on us, which is good leverage.
 - Stephanie voiced agreeing that we need to remain vigilant to protect progress that we’ve achieved thus far.
- NP Rule Making Comments: Stephanie clarified that we are not commenting on the NP rulemaking as a CO per AAPA recommendation, though as individuals we are welcome to comment, just not as MEAPA representatives’/Board members.
 - LAS in D.C September 24-26, 2026, Kathleen and Erin attending on behalf of MEAPA.
 - Kathleen presenting on “CO Power Hour”
 - Susan Collins again Sponsoring bill to allow PAs and NPs to perform Workers Compensation care for Federal Workers.
 - Next GAC Meeting TBD likely after LAS in early October.

6:27 PM ***Treasurer Updates*** – Kathleen in Rhianna’s absence

- Latest financial reports reviewed approximately \$111K in bank and investments.
- 2026-2027 Budget with a \$7k loss for the year, conservatively drafted, additional earning potential with: Grant from AAPA, Membership drive efforts, Sponsorship of 50th Celebration and/or CME Conference.
 - Motion to Accept Budget as written Kim (1st) Joe (2nd), unanimously approved.
- CD/Investment options:
 - Rhianna via Kathleen reported the following:
 - Bar Harbor Trust 2 MO CD Special (requires \$1k in a Business Checking) 3.5%APY, 3.455% Interest Rate.
 - North East Bank 6mo CD 4% APY or 12 MO 4.1% APY
 - Reminder: BSB CDs are due to mature in January and July 2027 (\$20k each initially invested).
 - Board decided not to proceed with new purchase at this time, revisiting in Dec prior to CD maturing instead more information requested of Treasurer

Rhianna:

- Bangor Savings Bank CD rates

- Money Market Savings Account Rates (in increments if rates vary by amount)
- Recommendation for how much to invest/allocate to alternate funds

6:41 PM **Education Committee Updates – Joe**

- 2027 Conference April 2nd and 3rd at AC Hotel in Portland again.
 - Registration is now live on Website.
 - Anticipating 12 credits, mix of 30- and 60-min presentations and no skills lab.
 - Many speakers already secured, still looking for pharm D to give Opioid talk to provide that Licensure needed element.
 - Kim and Hannah to discuss with their contacts.
 - Ticket prices increased \$30 from last year to account for providing lunch.
 - Hoping for increased attendance this year due to earlier registration/save the date/location notifications and since this is the second year we've offered Spring/Portland venue.
 - 50th Anniversary Reception will be one block away from AC Hotel the Friday night of the conference, separate tickets are needed.
 - Next Education Committee meeting via zoom Thursday September 17th at 6p

6:47 PM **Membership Updates- Kathleen**

- Erin has agreed to Chair this committee.
- Increased potential for membership that we haven't been able to capitalize on the last few years.
- Next quarterly newsletter Oct/early November - Kim
- Group Memberships outreach:
 - ME General just renewed their group membership after cancelling last year, bringing in \$8,200.
 - Plan to approach
 - MMC (Jess Logsdon-sent previously, new outreach to Meredith Beauregard)
 - **Angie** to assist
 - Northern Light
 - Bluewater (Duncan Davio contact)
 - ConvenientMD (Kathleen with contacts)
 - Local Infusion??
- April 2nd, 2027 MEAPA's 50th Anniversary – planning committee (Kim and Kathleen, looking for others, Hannah interested).
 - Goal is to make this an exclusive event, hold award ceremony, possibly recognize all the past presidents in the room (Award budget increased \$300 to accommodate).

- Inviting MEAPA Past Presidents, Historical figures, Health systems (buy a table of 10?), Health Orgs (MMA/MOA, MNPA, MPHA etc) Invite Legislators? Video messages.
- Kim and Kathleen viewed Portland Harbor Hotel and Cambria, prefer Cambria due to location near AC Hotel, better guest flow from Terrace to room and better bathroom availability.
- Motion to hold 50th Anniversary at Cambria on April 2nd, 2026, Kim (1st), Hannah (2nd) all in favor.
 - **Kathleen** to sign contract

7:04 PM Tabled and Follow-ups - Kathleen

- Conflict of Interest signed statements -NEW ***all board members MUST complete and sign.***
- PA Week Plans
 - Kathleen voiced frustration that the Governor has not responded to numerous requests for a PA week proclamation, asking for others with contacts to reach out requesting.
 - All board members, anyone with contacts in Governor's office, encouraged to attempt to push this issue.
 - Last year Kathleen did radio and newspaper editorials, Kim proposes in honor of the 50th anniversary that each board member writes an editorial to a newspaper to commemorate PA Week. All in agreement.
 - **All board members** email Kathleen which paper you'd like to write an editorial to. Nonresponders will be assigned a paper to ensure we hit all regions.
 - Many Health systems in Maine have unfortunately decided to celebrate one "APP week" or "Heath Practitioners' week" instead of each individual professions having their own week. Those on board in Health system leadership roles feel unable to change this in their system.
 - **Kathleen** offers to send a letter to each health system encouraging the celebration of PA Week, asking health centers to tag us in any celebration posts on social media. All agreed.
 - **Kim** to get Kathleen all our social media page tag names and Meredith Beauregard's email for MMC distribution.
 - **Kathleen** to work on obtaining a Legislative Proclamation for our 50th Anniversary in April, since Legislature won't yet be in session for PA week.
- Arkansas DMSc Program partnership (Discount for our members)
 - Board with many concerns regarding appearing like we are endorsing one school, Doctoral level training or DMSc over other doctoral programs (ex DHA).
 - Decided NOT to move forward with this partnership.

- Angie recommended we have a standard fee schedule for various sponsorship/advertising opportunities for PA/Doctoral programs and other industry entities to boost our revenue while sharing information about other organizations.
 - Conference Sponsorship
 - Merch donations (pens/notebooks etc for conference attendees)
 - 50th Anniversary Sponsorship
 - Newsletter Advertisements
 - Possibly creating advertising section of website
 - **Kim** to check with MyPANetwork on feasibility
 - **Kim** to create draft fee schedule for advertising/sponsorship

7:34 PM **Policy/Bylaw Updates- Kathleen/Joe**

- CO Bylaws Compliance Review for AAPA – Completed by Joe (THANK YOU!)
- 2026 AAPA CO Affiliation Agreement reviewed and briefly discussed.
 - Motion to accept and sign Joe (1st), Kim (2nd), all agreed.
 - **Kathleen** to sign and submit.

7:35 PM **Collaborative Efforts - Kathleen**

- Licensure Board Merger Update – BOLIM and BOOL will be merging as the “Board of Medicine” effective January 1, 2027. Monthly zoom meetings that are open to public. Allan Hull has been auditing the monthly BOLIM Meetings, but alerted us that after the merger, meetings will be occurring on one Tuesday and one Thursday each month, he can only continue to follow the Tuesday meetings, someone else needed for Thursday meeting audits.
 - **Kathleen** working with Alan about specifics and then will try to find meeting coverage.
- ANA Maine Soiree Tuesday September 15th at Orono Brewing Company- **Kat and Kathleen** attending
- US Senate ME District 2 Candidate Health Care Forum September 16th 6-7:30p at Sea Dog Brewing in Bangor, MMA planned, we were invited to cosponsor (MMA/MOA/MEAPA/MPH/MNPA) **MEAPA Attendees Needed.**
- Gather for Change September 22nd 4:30-6p at The Pub at Baxter Brewing in Lewiston, **Kim and possibly Angie** to attend. Cosponsored with MMA/MOA/MNPA/Maine Primary Care Association and MEAPA.
- Primary Care Advisory Council – Next meeting Sept 25th Chris Bates-Withers to provide updates to MEAPA concurrently.

- Maine Immunization Coalition (MIC) Steering Committee – September 29th annual in person meeting 9a-noon Portland; **Kathleen** will attend
 - Kathleen attends regularly on 3rd Friday of Every Month.
 - **Seeing additional MEAPA Board Representation** on Sept 29th 9a -noon annual in person meeting, **Joe** possibly available others welcome.
 - (Council made up of reps from health systems, Pediatricians, PCP's and MEAPA, interestingly NPs are not involved).
- Maine Public Health Association Conference October 1st in Augusta, Nourish and Flourish.
 - **Seeking MEAPA board member representation.**
- UNE Student Lunch Tuesday October 6th 12-1p WCHP Lecture Hall at UNE, **Rhiana, Stephanie and Steven** to attend, others welcome to join.
- ME Pediatric Oral Health Initiative next meetings: August 18th, follow up provided; Sept 18th upcoming. Grant funding is associated with participation. Quarterly updates will be provided, anyone wanting more real-time updates can opt in by emailing Kathleen.
 - **Kathleen** is attending the Education Committee meetings.
 - Toby Ostrov is attending the Outreach/Referrals Committee meetings, with updates to Kathleen.

7:51 PM Social Media Engagement -Kim

- Goal is to reach members and non-members what we are working on and all we are accomplishing. Need to increase Engagement to reach them. On LinkedIn, Insta and Facebook.
 - Engagement with comments, especially back and forth comments, really boosts algorithm. TIPS:
 - Likes don't boost engagement anymore.
 - Comments, especially back and forth comments boost algorithm
 - Shares, including if you just click share, then the "copy link" button also boosts engagement.
 - If you find articles/items we should be sharing on socials please share to the MEAPA account so I can quickly repost and/or comment to boost their engagement 😊

7:53 PM Motion to adjourn. Kim (1st) Stephanie (2nd) all in favor.

Deliverables List: Will be reviewed at next meeting to ensure loop closure.

All Board Members:

- ☐ If you have a contact in Governor's office, or Dem party, please attempt to push PA Week Proclamation.
- ☐ Email Kathleen which paper you'd like to write an editorial to for PA week in honor of 50th Anniversary of MEAPA. Nonresponders will be assigned a paper to ensure we hit all regions.
- ☐ Provide Kathleen with email contacts for PA week letter at your Health System.
- ☐ Consider attending: (let Kathleen know if able)
 - ☐ US Senate ME District 2 Candidate Health Care Forum September 16th 6-7:30p at Sea Dog Brewing in Bangor
 - ☐ ME Immunization Steering Committee in person meeting Sept 29th, 9-noon Augusta
 - ☐ ME Public Health Conference "Nourish and Flourish", Augusta on Oct 1st
 - ☐ MEAPA UNE Luncheon Oct 6th noon – 1p UNE Portland

Kathleen:

- ☐ Sign contract with Cambria Hotel for 50th Celebration on April 2nd, 2027
- ☐ Send a letter to each health system encouraging the celebration of PA Week, asking health centers to tag us in any celebration posts on social media.
- ☐ Work on obtaining a Legislative Proclamation for our 50th Anniversary in April, since Legislature won't yet be in session for PA week
- ☐ Sign and Submit AAPA CO Affiliate Agreement
- ☐ Working with Alan on specifics of Thursday BOM meetings and then will try to find meeting auditor coverage
- ☐ Add Kat and Rachel to MEAPA text Messages.

Rhianna:

- ☐ Bangor Savings Bank CD rates
- ☐ Money Market Savings Account Rates (in increments if varies by amount)
- ☐ Recommendation for how much to invest/allocate to alternate funds

Kim:

- ☐ Get Kathleen Jess Laughtons and Meredith's email.
- ☐ Send Kathleen all our social media page tag names and Meredith Beauregard's email for MMC distribution of letter requesting PA week celebrations.
- ☐ Check with MyPANetwork on feasibility of Website Advertising
- ☐ Create draft fee schedule for advertising/sponsorship to share with Arkansas DMSc PA program and others.

Angie:

- ☐ Follow-Up with Group Membership outreach to Meredith and Jess Logsdon regarding group membership.

Rachael:

- ☐ Send Kathleen your cell phone number to get on the text chat.

Katherine:

- ☐ Send Kathleen your cell phone number to get on the text chat.

Erin, Joe, Hannah, Stephanie, Steven and Katie no individual items.