

# Department of Family Medicine

## June Meeting Minutes

**Date:** June 13, 2025

**Time:** 7:00am

**Attendees:** Dr. Sangita Pillai; Dr. Christen Fragala; Dr. Raymond Lewis; Dr. Joseph Dulac; Dr. Cara Marshall; Dr. Majed Abbas; Dr. Marian Younge; Dr. Emelyn Molato; Dr. Catherine Trinh; Dr. Audra Williams; Dr. Patrick O'Neil; Dr. Cindy Cheng; Dr. Margaret Mills; Ashley Adams, RN, Quality Improvement Specialist; Maxine Miller, Medical Staff Office; AnneMarie Aquino, RN, Clinical Manager

### **I. Call to Order**

- Dr. Pillai called the meeting to order at 7:00am.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- The department approved the previous minutes of May after one correction that the hospital will provide at least \$2,000 for funding trip to Cambodia sister hospital.

### **III. New Business**

- Dr. Goldberg in Pulmonary has retired, which is making it difficult for referrals for lung patients.
- Ambulatory referrals for outpatient Psychiatry have been getting better.
- The goal is to improve mental health care in person.
- It was mentioned that Assured Hope Community Health in Chelmsford are good at taking referrals as well as Northeast Health Services.
- Dr. O'Neil mentioned that he is concerned about Assured Hope providers being too quick to put patients on benzos.
- It seems that they are not checking tox screens. They are all Nurse Practitioners, and some are in training so it might be that they are inexperienced.
- It was mentioned that Primary Care Physicians are unable to see treatment plans for their patients which was determined that there are legal reasons under 42 CFR that blocks PCP from seeing treatment plans.
- Dr. Lewis mentioned that one of the NP's at Sullivan Unit reached out to him about a patient and the NP said that they would not be taking over medication orders.
- Dr. Williams is going to work on getting information to groups about access to treatment plans and consents by patients.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **a. Medical Executive Committee**

- No updates were given



**b. Labor and Delivery Committee**

- An update was given by AnneMarie Aquino, Clinical Manager of MIU. She informed the group that multiple policies are being worked on including the bladder retention protocol.
- OB Rapid Response Code is in the works and being integrated into TigerText to make things flow better with nurses and physicians during an emergency.
- Parenting and birthing classes will be starting back up in person and will be held one Saturday per month by Danielle and AnneMarie.
- Breastfeeding classes will be offered in person in the coming months. They will also keep offering the virtual class.
- There has been a back log of audiology screens.
- LCHC stated that patients are not going to follow up appointments after birth due to transportation issues.
- PNQIN Clinical Team Award was given to the Perinatal Health Team/MIU for efforts in Perinatal Mental Health.
- Magnets were made to give to patients as an education piece on perinatal mental health. The magnets come in multiple languages.
- AnneMarie asked the department to please let patients know to book a follow up appointment.
- Dr. Younge stated that social work and nurses can do in home visits.

**c. Cancer Committee**

- No one was on the call to give an update.

**d. Credentials Committee**

- No update was given.

**e. Morbidity and Mortality Council**

- No update was given.

**f. Perinatal Committee**

- There were no updates on Perinatal Committee as they meet next week.

**g. MCH Updates**

- No updates were given.

**h. DEI Update**

- There is a Tufts Medicine system wide Juneteenth celebration via Zoom from 12-1pm.
- There is raising Pride flag being done at all Tufts Medicine campuses.
- Lowell General Hospital did their flag raising on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**i. Family Medicine Residency Program**

- Dr. Cara Marshall informed the department that two Family Medicine doctors will be starting on the Labor and Delivery floor to start preparing for the start of the Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Wolf and Dr. Younge will both be starting shifts on June 26 and working with the LCHC patients.

**j. Bridge Clinic**

- Dr. Williams is back full time so there are two MD's and 3 NP's working at the Bridge Clinic.
- There are now five days of outpatient and inpatient consults.

**k. Mass Medical Society**

- Dr. Joseph Dulac discussed Mass Medical Society and stated it is a very active physician organization. Lowell falls under the Middlesex chapter.



- Several meetings are held during the year.
- There is a gathering on September 14 from 11am-4pm at Kimball Farms in Westford, MA.
- They are looking for energetic folks who want to advocate.

**V. Adjournment & Other Discussion**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:00am.

**Next Meeting:**

Friday, September 12, 2025, 7:00AM via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

*Maxine M. Miller*

Maxine Miller  
Medical Staff Coordinator

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sangita Pillai, MD  
Chief, Department of Family Medicine

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

