



July 13 Community Advisory Council Summary

By Grace Martin, Founder of Lexington Writing Firm

On July 13, the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) hosted a statewide forum for patient/resident and family advisors serving in health systems. Knowing that patient, resident, and family input is critical to safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, MAPS launched this innovative Council for virtually sharing concerns, perspectives, and insights ten weeks ago.

Catherine Hinz (Executive Director), Lisa Juliar (Engagement Specialist/Patient Partner), and Megan Daman (Project Manager) led the meeting, which focused on approving and finalizing the deliverable about the important role of the In-Person Care Partner during the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be available to healthcare leaders in Minnesota next week.

Catherine Hinz began this week's meeting by thanking all Council members for their work for the In-Person Care Partner document. "Ten weeks ago, we asked what was missing from the conversation about COVID-19 and safety," explained Catherine. "You honed down this enormous topic and developed terminology for the In-Person Care Partner, focusing on why the physical presence of a care partner is important from an emotional support standpoint, as well as safety."

Lisa Juliar went on to say that discussions about the In-Person Care Partner will continue to be relevant for years to come. "This will start a new conversation about how we can use care partners to create more safety," she detailed.

Before this meeting, Catherine and Lisa both communicated with the Minnesota Department of Health about this project. "The Department of Health was very complimentary and leveraged our draft document for the work that they are producing," said Catherine.

Safer Together: The Essential Role of the In-Person Care Partner: Council members discussed the final approval of the draft document, focusing on additional language about healthcare organizations continuously assessing access restrictions based on the most current evidence and data. The MAPS team also welcomed additional feedback and edits to the document, as well as quotes from Council members about the importance of In-Person Care Partners for patient safety.

Council members also discussed future projects after this document is published, including creating different types of resources to support healthcare organizations, patients, and caregivers. The MAPS team also shared their work to secure endorsements from several Minnesota-based health organizations.

Key takeaways for health systems: With energy and a passionate commitment to patient safety—and with the support of the Council members—the MAPS team is finalizing the document for publication.

After publication, the CAC will discuss future priorities and potential new approaches to meetings so that the members will continue to aggregate experiences and insights from throughout the state.

For more information about the MAPS Community Advisory Council weekly conversations and the "Safer Together: The Essential Role of the In-Person Care Partner" document, email info@mnpatientsafety.org.