



## June 29 Community Advisory Council Summary

By Grace Martin, Founder of Lexington Writing Firm

On June 29, the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) hosted a statewide forum for patient/resident and family advisors serving in health systems. Believing 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.

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

Catherine Hinz began this week's meeting by thanking all Council members for their 300+ hours of work for the Community Advisory Council and the In-Person Care Partner document. "A genuine thank you for leading this work," she said. "I commend all of our members for adding insight and perspective to this important endeavor."

As of June 29, the MAPS team has connected with several health systems that have expressed interest in this document and sharing it within their system. Two MAPS board members and Metro Compact reviewed the document. In addition, MAPS proudly unveiled its new, updated logo with the Community Advisory Council.

**Safer Together: The Essential Role of the In-Person Care Partner:** Council members reviewed the document carefully, offering suggestions for improvements and copy edits. Council members discussed:

- If the document should include a pledge for healthcare system leaders
- What that pledge might entail
- Including language about the In-Person Care Partner for patients with disabilities
- Developing other tools for healthcare leaders and staff to discuss In-Person Care Partners, revise policies, and develop consistent messaging

Council members are proud of this document and are excited to promote it throughout Minnesota's health systems. Bruce M. added, "This is a beautiful document that talks up to hospital staff." All Council members have submitted comments and suggestions for changes over the past days.

He also shared his hopes to continue this virtual Council as long as possible, "I hope we can keep this thing alive long after the virus is gone. I want to keep this community alive and moving forward."

**Key takeaways for health systems:** The MAPS team is now gathering initial endorsements for the document from Minnesota's health systems. Given strong support, MAPS will publish and distribute the document, as well as continue developing additional resources for healthcare leaders (for example, a commitment pledge, discussion questions, shareable policies, program language, and more).

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](mailto:info@mnpatientsafety.org).