



**HCFA**  
Health Care For All  
MASSACHUSETTS

**PFAC**  
MASSACHUSETTS  
PATIENT & FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCILS  
*Making a Difference in Care*

## PFAC Annual Report Form

Health Care For All (HCFA) advocates for health justice in Massachusetts by working to promote health equity and ensure coverage and access for all. HCFA uses direct service, policy development, coalition building, community organizing, public education and outreach to achieve its mission. HCFA envisions a day when everyone in Massachusetts has the equitable, affordable, and comprehensive care they need to be healthy.

### Why complete an annual report for my PFAC?

Under Massachusetts law, hospital-wide PFACs are required to write annual reports by October 1<sup>st</sup> each year. These reports must be made available to members of the public upon request. As in past years, HCFA is requesting a copy of each report which will be posted on HCFA's website, <https://hcfama.org/pfac/>. HCFA recommends using this template to assist with information collection, as well as the reporting of key activities and milestones.

### What will happen with my report and how will HCFA use it?

We recognize the importance of sharing of information across PFACs. Each year, we:

- make individual reports available online
- share the data so that PFACs can learn about what other groups are doing

### Who can I contact with questions?

Please contact us at [atappan@hcfama.org](mailto:atappan@hcfama.org) or call us at 617-275-2982.

Please email completed forms to [PFAC@hcfama.org](mailto:PFAC@hcfama.org).

**Reports should be completed by October 1, 2022.**

# 2022 Patient and Family Advisory Council Annual Report Form

The survey questions concern PFAC activities in fiscal year 2022 only: (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

## Section 1: General Information

**1. Hospital Name:** Cooley Dickinson Hospital

*NOTE: Massachusetts law requires every hospital to make a report about its PFAC publicly available. HCFA strongly encourages the completion of an individual report for each hospitals-wide PFAC.*

**1a. Which best describes your PFAC?**

- We are the only PFAC at a single hospital – **skip to #3 below**
- We are a PFAC for a system with several hospitals – **skip to #2C below**
- We are one of multiple PFACs at a single hospital
- We are one of several PFACs for a system with several hospitals – **skip to #2C below**
- Other (Please describe):

**1b. Will another PFAC at your hospital also submit a report?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**1c. Will another hospital within your system also submit a report?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**3. Staff PFAC Co-Chair Contact:**

2a. Name and Title: Anthony Scibelli, Vice President, Operations & Chief Administrative Officer

2b. Email: [ajscibelli@cooleydickinson.org](mailto:ajscibelli@cooleydickinson.org)

2c. Phone: 413-582-2130

Not applicable

**4. Patient/Family PFAC Co-Chair Contact:**

3a. Name and Title: Cynthia Suopis

3b. Email: [csuopis@uww.umass.edu](mailto:csuopis@uww.umass.edu)

3c. Phone: (413) 695-4357

Not applicable

**5. Is the Staff PFAC Co-Chair also the Staff PFAC Liaison/Coordinator?**

- Yes – skip to #7 (Section 1) below
- No – describe below in #6

**6. Staff PFAC Liaison/Coordinator Contact:**

6a. Name and Title: Donna Polwrek, Executive Assistant

6b. Email: [dpolwrek@cooleydickinson.org](mailto:dpolwrek@cooleydickinson.org)

6c. Phone: 413-582-2130

Not applicable

## Section 2: PFAC Organization

**7. This year, the PFAC recruited new members through the following approaches (check all that apply):**

- Case managers/care coordinators
- Community based organizations
- Community events
- Facebook, Twitter, and other social media
- Hospital banners and posters
- Hospital publications
- Houses of worship/religious organizations
- Patient satisfaction surveys
- Promotional efforts within institution to patients or families
- Promotional efforts within institution to providers or staff
- Recruitment brochures
- Word of mouth/through existing members
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A – we did not recruit new members in FY 2022

**8. Total number of staff members on the PFAC: 5**

**9. Total number of patient or family member advisors on the PFAC: 11**

**10. The name of the hospital department supporting the PFAC is: Administration**

**11. The hospital position of the PFAC Staff Liaison/Coordinator is: Executive Assistant**

**12. The hospital provides the following for PFAC members to encourage their participation in meetings (check all that apply):**

- Annual gifts of appreciation
- Assistive services for those with disabilities
- Conference call phone numbers or “virtual meeting” options
- Meetings outside 9am-5pm office hours
- Parking, mileage, or meals
- Payment for attendance at annual PFAC conference
- Payment for attendance at other conferences or trainings
- Provision/reimbursement for child care or elder care
- Stipends
- Translator or interpreter services
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A

### Section 3: Community Representation

*The PFAC regulations require that patient and family members in your PFAC be “representative of the community served by the hospital.” If you are not sure how to answer the following questions, contact your community relations office or check “don’t know.”*

13. Our hospital’s catchment area is geographically defined as: Hampshire County

Don’t know

14. The racial and ethnic groups in these areas include (please provide percentages; if you are unsure of the percentages check “don’t know”):

	RACE						ETHNICITY	
	% American Indian or Alaska Native	% Asian	% Black or African American	% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	% White	% Other	% Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	
14a. Our defined catchment area	.1%	5%	2%	.1%	83%	3.8%	6%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
14b. Patients the hospital provided care to in FY 2022	.1%	3%	2%	.1%	82%	3.8%	9%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
14c. The PFAC patient and family advisors in FY 2022	0%	6%	6%	0%	82%	0%	6%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know

15. The languages spoken in these areas include (please provide percentages; if you are unsure of the percentages select “don’t know”):

	Limited English Proficiency (LEP) %	
15a. Patients the hospital provided care to in FY 2022	7%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
15b. PFAC patient and family advisors in FY 2022	0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know

15c. What percentage of patients that the hospital provided care to in FY 2022 spoke the following as their primary language?

	%
Spanish	2.16
Portuguese	.19
Chinese	.12
Haitian Creole	.12
Vietnamese	.05
Russian	.04
French	.04
Mon-Khmer/Cambodian	.02
Italian	.17
Arabic	.15
Albanian	.01
Cape Verdean	0

Don't know

15d. In FY 2022, what percentage of PFAC patient and family advisors spoke the following as their primary language?

	%
Spanish	5%
Portuguese	0%
Chinese	0%
Haitian Creole	0%
Vietnamese	0%
Russian	0%
French	5%
Mon-Khmer/Cambodian	0%
Italian	0%
Arabic	0%
Albanian	0%
Cape Verdean	0%

Don't know

**16. The PFAC is undertaking the following activities to ensure appropriate representation of our membership in comparison to our patient population or catchment area:**

1. Recruitment outreach in BIPOC communities.
2. Presentation by Hospital Director of Diversity/Equity/Inclusion to PFAC.

- 3. Added BIPOC staff member
- 4. Development of education plan for PFAC members on DEI initiatives
- 5. Strategy development with PFAC Co-Chair and Hospital Director of Diversity/Equity/Inclusion

### Section 4: PFAC Operations

**17. Our process for developing and distributing agendas for the PFAC meetings (choose):**

- Staff develops the agenda and sends it out prior to the meeting
- Staff develops the agenda and distributes it at the meeting
- PFAC members develop the agenda and send it out prior to the meeting
- PFAC members develop the agenda and distribute it at the meeting
- PFAC members and staff develop agenda together and send it out prior to the meeting. (Please describe below in #17a)
- PFAC members and staff develop agenda together and distribute it at the meeting. (Please describe below in #17a)
- Other process (Please describe below in #17b)
- N/A – the PFAC does not use agendas

17a. If staff and PFAC members develop the agenda together, please describe the process: Co-chairs meet a few weeks before each monthly meeting to brainstorm the agenda.

17b. If other process, please describe:

**18. The PFAC goals and objectives for 2022 were: (check the best choice):**

- Developed by staff alone
- Developed by staff and reviewed by PFAC members
- Developed by PFAC members and staff
- N/A – we did not have goals for FY 2022– **Skip to #20**

**19. The PFAC had the following goals and objectives for 2022:**

Increase diversity of members, more robust discussion with specific asks of the committee with the goal of impacting the patient experience.

**20. Please list any subcommittees that your PFAC has established:**

The Membership subcommittee was expanded to include discussions of agenda items and goals of PFAC for 2023.

**21. How does the PFAC interact with the hospital Board of Directors (check all that apply):**

- PFAC submits annual report to Board
- PFAC submits meeting minutes to Board
- Action items or concerns are part of an ongoing “Feedback Loop” to the Board
- PFAC member(s) attend(s) Board meetings
- Board member(s) attend(s) PFAC meetings

- PFAC member(s) are on board-level committee(s)
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A – the PFAC does not interact with the Hospital Board of Directors

**22. Describe the PFAC’s use of email, listservs, or social media for communication:** PFAC meeting agenda items and minutes are distributed via e-mail.

- N/A – We don’t communicate through these approaches

### Section 5: Orientation and Continuing Education

**23. Number of new PFAC members this year:**  
**5 new members**

**24. Orientation content included (check all that apply):**

- “Buddy program” with experienced members
- Check-in or follow-up after the orientation
- Concepts of patient- and family-centered care (PFCC)
- General hospital orientation
- Health care quality and safety
- History of the PFAC
- Hospital performance information
- Immediate “assignments” to participate in PFAC work
- Information on how PFAC fits within the organization’s structure
- In-person training
- Massachusetts law and PFACs
- Meeting with hospital staff
- Patient engagement in research
- PFAC policies, member roles and responsibilities
- Skills training on communication, technology, and meeting preparation
- Other (Please describe below in #24a)
- N/A – the PFAC members do not go through a formal orientation process

24a. If other, describe:

Restrictions due to COVID hampered interaction with Hospital Staff and in person orientation initiatives. Most orientation activities were conducted over zoom. COVID vaccination documentation was reviewed and applied to all PFAC members.

**25. The PFAC received training on the following topics:**

- Concepts of patient- and family-centered care (PFCC)
- Health care quality and safety measurement
- Health literacy
- A high-profile quality issue in the news in relation to the hospital (e.g. simultaneous surgeries, treatment of VIP patients, mental/behavioral health patient discharge, etc.)

- Hospital performance information
- Patient engagement in research
- Types of research conducted in the hospital
- Other (Please describe below in #25a)
- N/A – the PFAC did not receive training

25a. If other, describe:

Formal training in the above did not occur but agenda items on provider/staff recruitment, Alzheimer’s Operational Plan, DEI initiatives, Behavioral Health, Employee Engagement, Patient Complaint Process, Patient Satisfaction Surveys, Childbirth Center Renovations, Bereavement, Veterans initiatives, Call Center and Financial Counseling for patients provided a deeper understanding of the operational focus and success of the hospital. Presentations by Chief Medical Officer, CEO and the Chief Nursing Officer gave PFAC members a deeper understanding of Hospital Performance indicators.

### **Section 6: FY 2022 PFAC Impact and Accomplishments**

*The following information concerns PFAC activities in the fiscal year 2022.*

**26. Please share the following information on the PFACs accomplishments and impacts:**

26a. What were the three greatest accomplishments/impacts of the PFAC related to providing feedback or perspective?

Accomplishment/Impact	Idea came from (choose one)
<b>Accomplishment/Impact 1:</b>  <i>Expansion of Membership.</i> This initiative provided a framework for widening community representation on PFAC that resulted in a deeper level of feedback to the Hospital.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input
<b>Accomplishment/Impact 2:</b>  <i>Care for the Caregiver events.</i> This initiative provided increased PFAC exposure to Staff/Administration where 4 events were scheduled during COVID to honor and give thanks to the front line staff.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input
<b>Accomplishment/Impact 3:</b>  <i>Patient Expectation/Experience Dialog.</i> This initiative provided qualitative feedback on patient expectations to the Patient Experience Committee.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input

26b. What were the three greatest accomplishments/impacts of the PFAC related to influencing the institution's financial and programmatic decisions?

Accomplishment/Impact	Idea came from (choose one)
<p><b>Accomplishment/Impact 1:</b> <i>Expand membership and visibility.</i></p> <p>This was a Council building year for PFAC. Under new Hospital and PFAC leadership, identifying areas of influence has been the goal during COVID challenges. We spent the year recruiting new members while developing cohesion and culture within PFAC. Members are now strategically placed in Hospital Committees and our participation in hospital wide activities has increased.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>
<p><b>Accomplishment/Impact 2:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>
<p><b>Accomplishment/Impact 3:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>

26c. What were the three greatest accomplishments/impacts of the PFAC related leading/co-leading programs and initiatives?

Accomplishment/Impact	Idea came from (choose one)
<p><b>Accomplishment/Impact 1:</b> <i>Increased PFAC participation on Hospital Committees.</i></p> <p>Due to COVID and a reduction in PFAC members in 2021, recruitment efforts to increase membership allowed vacant PFAC member positions on Hospital Committees to be filled. PFAC presence on Hospital Committees is now 100% complete.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>
<p><b>Accomplishment/Impact 2:</b> <i>Increased presence of PFAC in the Hospital during COVID.</i></p> <p>PFAC presented its goals and accomplishments to the Leadership team. We widened our visibility by</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>

volunteering at Hospital Events and initiated four Caregiver Thank you events during all shifts to distribute cookies, popsicles, burritos, care kits to hospital staff. We secured donations from the community to support these events. We were invited to address nursing staff during the Nursing Awards Ceremony during National Nurses Week. These initiatives significantly increased visibility.

**Accomplishment/Impact 3: *Build a culture of pride and enthusiasm among PFAC members.***

As mentioned above, 2022 was a year of building membership and recognition of the potential of PFAC in our Hospital. We are seeing the impact of our efforts in stronger PFAC member engagement, requests from Hospital departments for PFAC input and enthusiasm for engaging in work that improves patient care.

- Patient/family advisors of the PFAC
- Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input

**27. The five greatest challenges the PFAC had in FY 2022:**

**Challenge 1: DEI recruitment initiatives**

**Challenge 2: COVID restrictions**

**Challenge 3: Increased visibility of PFAC in the Hospital**

**Challenge 4: Building an organizational culture in PFAC**

**Challenge 5: Identifying where PFAC can be helpful in Hospital initiatives**

N/A – we did not encounter any challenges in FY 2022

**28. The PFAC members serve on the following hospital-wide committees, projects, task forces, work groups, or Board committees:**

- Behavioral Health/Substance Use
- Bereavement
- Board of Directors

- Care Transitions
- Code of Conduct
- Community Benefits
- Critical Care
- Culturally Competent Care
- Discharge Delays
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Drug Shortage
- Eliminating Preventable Harm
- Emergency Department Patient/Family Experience Improvement
- Ethics
- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) – Sensitive Care
- Patient Care Assessment
- Patient Education
- Patient and Family Experience Improvement
- Pharmacy Discharge Script Program
- Quality and Safety
- Quality/Performance Improvement
- Surgical Home
- Other (Please describe): Finance Committee; Marketing, Organizational Culture and Patient Experience
- N/A – the PFAC members do not serve on these – **Skip to #30**

**29. How do members on these hospital-wide committees or projects report back to the PFAC about their work?**

Individual members are contacted by Co-Chair for project report backs to PFAC.

**30. The PFAC provided advice or recommendations to the hospital on the following areas mentioned in the Massachusetts law (check all that apply):**

- Institutional Review Boards
- Patient and provider relationships
- Patient education on safety and quality matters
- Quality improvement initiatives
- N/A – the PFAC did not provide advice or recommendations to the hospital on these areas in FY 2022

**31. PFAC members participated in the following activities mentioned in the Massachusetts law (check all that apply):**

- Advisory boards/groups or panels
- Award committees
- Co-trainers for clinical and nonclinical staff, in-service programs, and health professional trainees
- Search committees and in the hiring of new staff
- Selection of reward and recognition programs
- Standing hospital committees that address quality
- Task forces
- N/A – the PFAC members did not participate in any of these activities

**32. The hospital shared the following public hospital performance information with the PFAC (check all that apply):**

**32a. Complaints and serious events**

- Complaints and investigations reported to Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Healthcare-Associated Infections (National Healthcare Safety Network)
- Patient complaints to hospital
- Serious Reportable Events reported to Department of Public Health (DPH)

**32b. Quality of care**

- High-risk surgeries (such as aortic valve replacement, pancreatic resection)
- Joint Commission Accreditation Quality Report (such as asthma care, immunization, stroke care)
- Medicare Hospital Compare (such as complications, readmissions, medical imaging)
- Maternity care (such as C-sections, high risk deliveries)

**32c. Resource use, patient satisfaction, and other**

- Inpatient care management (such as electronically ordering medicine, specially trained doctors for ICU patients)
- Patient experience/satisfaction scores (eg. HCAHPS - Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems)
- Resource use (such as length of stay, readmissions)
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A – the hospital did not share performance information with the PFAC – **Skip to #35**

**33. Please explain why the hospital shared only the data you checked in Q 32 above:** These items were timely and involved discussions whereby administration was seeking feedback from patient advisors.

**34. Please describe how the PFAC was engaged in discussions around these data in #32 above and any resulting quality improvement initiatives:** Presentations were made to PFAC members at the advisory council meeting and discussion occurred with key leaders from the organization. In some cases, PFAC members participated in discussions at committee meetings as a committee member.

**35. The PFAC participated in activities related to the following state or national quality of care initiatives (check all that apply):**

**35a. National Patient Safety Hospital Goals**

- Identifying patient safety risks
- Identifying patients correctly
- Preventing infection
- Preventing mistakes in surgery
- Using medicines safely
- Using alarms safely

**35b. Prevention and errors**

- Care transitions (e.g., discharge planning, passports, care coordination, and follow up between care settings)
- Checklists
- Electronic Health Records –related errors
- Hand-washing initiatives

- Human Factors Engineering
- Fall prevention
- Team training
- Safety

35c. Decision-making and advanced planning

- End of life planning (e.g., hospice, palliative, advanced directives)
- Health care proxies
- Improving information for patients and families
- Informed decision making/informed consent

35d. Other quality initiatives

- Disclosure of harm and apology
- Integration of behavioral health care
- Rapid response teams
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A – the PFAC did not work in quality of care initiatives

**36. Were any members of your PFAC engaged in advising on research studies?**

- Yes
- No – **Skip to #40 (Section 6)**

**37. In what ways are members of your PFAC engaged in advising on research studies? Are they:**

- Educated about the types of research being conducted
- Involved in study planning and design
- Involved in conducting and implementing studies
- Involved in advising on plans to disseminate study findings and to ensure that findings are communicated in understandable, usable ways
- Involved in policy decisions about how hospital researchers engage with the PFAC (e.g. they work on a policy that says researchers have to include the PFAC in planning and design for every study)

**38. How are members of your PFAC approached about advising on research studies?**

- Researchers contact the PFAC
- Researchers contact individual members, who report back to the PFAC
- Other (Please describe below in #38a)
- None of our members are involved in research studies

38a. If other, describe:

**39. About how many studies have your PFAC members advised on?**

- 1 or 2
- 3-5
- More than 5
- None of our members are involved in research studies

## **Section 7: PFAC Annual Report**

*We **strongly** suggest that all PFAC members approve reports prior to submission.*

**40. The following individuals approved this report prior to submission (list name and indicate whether staff or patient/family advisor):**

Cynthia Suopis – member; Anthony Scibelli, Co-Chair PFAC; Donna Polwrek, Coordinator

**41. Describe the process by which this PFAC report was completed and approved at your institution (choose the best option).**

- Collaborative process: staff and PFAC members both wrote and/or edited the report
- Staff wrote report and PFAC members reviewed it
- Staff wrote report
- Other (Please describe):

**Massachusetts law requires that each hospital's annual PFAC report be made available to the public upon request. Answer the following questions about the report:**

**42. We post the report online.**

- Yes, link: <https://www.cooleydickinson.org/PFAC-Annual-Report-2022.pdf>
- No

**43. We provide a phone number or e-mail address on our website to use for requesting the report.**

- Yes, phone number/e-mail address: [PublicAffairs@cooleydickinson.org](mailto:PublicAffairs@cooleydickinson.org)
- No

**44. Our hospital has a link on its website to a PFAC page.**

- Yes, link: <https://www.cooleydickinson.org/home/patients-families-visitors/patient-family-advisory-council/>
- No, we don't have such a section on our website