



Fast Five with Dr. Scott Mills

Vice President of Medical Administration and Chief Medical Officer at Mid Coast Hospital

Welcome to Fast Five—our monthly feature that spotlights an individual connected with the MaineHealth ACO. This month we had a chance to catch up with Dr. Scott Mills for five quick questions.

As an independent and MaineHealth affiliated community hospital and provider community, what ACO resources are most valuable to you?

The physicians here at Mid Coast have been involved with the MMC-Physician Hospital Organization and Community Physicians of Maine (now MaineHealth ACO) for a long time now and we appreciate the breadth and depth of some of its centralized services, specifically Care Management and Quality. Having resources available to cull the centralization and standardization of those services adds tremendous value to our work. A lot of our work takes place at the bedside and practice level, so it's particularly meaningful to have help deciding on quality metrics and guidance on setting standards of care.

As a member of the ACO Board of Directors and co-chair of the Value Oversight Committee, how do you envision a successful 2017 for the ACO?

I look at all of the work that has been done to date as very foundational in preparing us for the coming year. I think of it like preseason baseball—we have been in Spring Training for the ACO—the integration, getting Care Management to the right level and figuring out which PHM solution to use. And the next iteration of our work is like the actual season—getting the ACO to perform well in reducing cost, improving care, maintaining quality. It's going to be a big and important year to deliver on the Triple Aim.

What is your top work priority this month?

My top priority every month is always about better patient care. I grew up here in Maine and our patients are my people, and I want to ensure we are continuing to improve their care. I used to take care of one patient at a time—and now I try to develop a system and processes where a group of patients can be better off than they were last year. One example of how we are doing that right now is examining how we can integrate our employed physicians and medical staff to create more coordination and efficiency.

What do you do to stay healthy?

Work-life balance is very important to me. When I'm not working I spend time with my family and do a lot of outdoor activities. And I love music—I have been performing in a rock band called Dr. Whitebread and The Jam for about 15 years. We're all doctors, except for one of our members, and we perform all over. I think it's important and healthy to have something in your life that is very different from what you do day-to-day.

What is on your nightstand right now?

I am reading Petty: The Biography by Warren Zanes, about music legend Tom Petty. It's an incredible story about teamwork and how Petty kept his band going—in a very dynamic way—for 25-30 years and how he kept both the band and audience engaged during changing times. I think it would apply well to anyone who is building a team or trying to keep people engaged.

Dr. Mills began his career in Maine as a founding partner of Mid Coast Cardiology in 1988. In 1995 he became the first VPMA at the newly formed Mid Coast Hospital. In 2015 he oversaw the clinical integration of the former Parkview Adventist Hospital with the Mid Coast Healthcare to form the current Mid Coast Parkview Health. He has a passion for Physician Leadership and Development with involvement in PLDF since 2008 and the Hanley Center for Healthcare Leadership since 2009. Dr. Mills lives in Brunswick with his wife Celeste Moreau.