

New Member Spotlight: BlueWater Healthcare

BlueWater Healthcare is the only independent, democratic, 100% physician owned, acute care medicine group in Maine. With a 96% retention rate, BlueWater is the preferred employer for many acute care clinicians and hospitals throughout New England. For more information, please click [HERE](#)



Excerpts from a conversation with Jay Mullen, MD, MBA, FACEP, Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Mullen spent his early years in medicine as a wilderness EMT in the U.S., working in Central America immunizing women and children and then working at rural hospitals in Arizona. Given these experiences, in 2009, Jay joined a health system with three small rural hospitals in Maine. Since then, this system has become BlueWater Health and they have expanded to several states in New England and added urgent care and hospitalists to their program. Jay and his team pride themselves on providing outstanding patient care with respect and compassion. BlueWater's philosophy is to support colleagues, nursing staff, the community and the hospital administration as a team effort all striving for the same goal of providing the best possible care.

Dr. Mullen learned of EDPMA through several members involved in the emergency medicine community. He particularly appreciates the collaborative voice that EDPMA represents so that issues and concerns are elevated to legislators and regulators at the state and federal levels. Jay pointed out that EDPMA educates members on how to advocate for emergency medicine and sees this as a key benefit. Dr. Mullen also highlighted that EDPMA's work in dealing with problem payers is an important focus for the organization and one that needs continued attention.

"EDPMA allows BlueWater Health to be a more dynamic and effective organization and helps us create a strong alliance with our hospital clients" according to Dr. Mullen. "EDPMA is a fantastic resource as information is pushed to their teams" (via the Advocacy and Membership Newsletters, Action and News Alerts). And, BlueWater's team can also drill down into the issues via EDPMA's [Toolbox](#) resource which provides detailed information by subject matter (e.g., PLP, SMB, COVID-19, etc.). And templates are customizable for states or for reaching out at the federal level. Jay emphasized that EDPMA's membership brings together so many leaders in the industry where issues and problems can be discussed in an environment where leaders are willing to share their knowledge without divulging their competitive "secret sauce."

Dr. Mullen suggests that EDPMA consider offering training or webinars on financial and business management as many small groups are not large enough to have a CFO and often, physicians are wearing multiple hats of clinician, business management, HR director and more. Dr. Mullen has joined the Practice Management Committee and the Federal Health Policy Committee and plans to participate actively in both Committees. We welcome his participation and insights!