National Quality Forum

Moderator: SDOH Housing Instability & Food Insecurity
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Operator: This is Conference # 85345763.

Operator: Welcome, everyone. The webcast is about to begin. Please note today's call is being recorded. Please stand by.

John Bernot: Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much for attending this webinar. My name is John Bernot. I'm one of the senior directors here at the National Quality Forum and working on this food insecurity and housing instability project.

Today, as you know, we're here for the Expert Panel's orientation. This is one of two identical sessions that we've offered to make sure everyone on the panel is brought up to speed with a bit of a background on NQF and the framework projects that we do.

What I'll do is just give a very brief overview of the agenda for today. And, then, I will turn it over for the other individuals in the room to introduce themselves. So, today, we have an hour and a half scheduled. Depending on questions, we may not need all of that time. But, we wanted to make sure that we didn't rush the training. We'll start with an overview of NQF, for those of you who are unfamiliar with NQF, a little bit of background about our organization.

Our project analyst, Vanessa, will go over the details of the project. And you will be hearing a lot from Vanessa over the course of the next couple of months, if you haven't already. I will then spend a bit of time going over

framework and how they differ from other projects if you're familiar with NQF. And, lastly, Drew will go over environmental scans for you and. And, then, Vanessa will wrap up with questions and overview of some of the technology we use and, then, adjourn the meeting at that point.

So, at this point, I'd like to turn it over to Andrew Anderson to introduce himself.

Andrew Anderson: Hi, everyone. It's Drew. I'm also a senior director here at NQF. I've been here for about – going on three years, worked on a variety of framework projects related to disparities, home and community-based services, shared decision making. And I will, you know, bring a lot of that experience to this work. So ...

Jean-Luc Tilly: So, my name is Jean-Luc Tilly. I'm a senior project manager here at NQF. I've worked kind of across the board on our different consensus development projects, you know, endorsing measures, selecting measures for the federal programs and the MAP and, then, a couple of different framework projects.

Vanessa Moy: Hello, everyone. My name is Vanessa Moy, and I'm a project analyst here. I've been here for almost a year. And I've had an opportunity to work on a couple of framework such as interoperability and improving diagnostic accuracy.

So, yes, I'll just go on to the next step, which is just to welcome each one of you, the expert panelists. I won't do a roll call for each one of you because we're hosting two different orientation webinars based on your Doodle poll. So, I will just be calling a couple of you who are on this call right now. So – and if you could also briefly give a brief introduction about yourself, we'll appreciate that. So, I'll start off with a roll call right now.

Is Ron Bialeck here by any chance?

Ron Bialeck: Yes. Hi. This is Ron. Thank you for including me on the panel. And I'm the present CEO of the Public Health Foundation. We work a great deal with state, tribal, local and territorial health departments as well as health systems.

And the issue of housing and food and security is key to the folks (in our work).

Vanessa Moy: Thank you. Thanks, Ron.

How about – is Rebecca Freeman here by any chance?

Rebecca Freeman: Hi. I am. So, my name is Rebecca Freeman. I'm really excited to be on the panel. I am currently serving as the chief nursing officer at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT. And my background is as a nurse working with vulnerable populations.

That was my focus with my doctoral work. And health IT is really the big thing. So, as we look at population health and health in general and well-being of patients, really, it's about where they are. And, so, food insecurity and housing is a huge part of that, and I'm really happy to be here.

Vanessa Moy: Thank you.

How about Nancy Garrett?

Nancy Garrett: Yes, I'm here. So, I lead our analytics and IT functions at Hennepin County Medical Center, which is a safety net provider in Minneapolis. And I've been able to serve on a couple of other NQF panels that have some relation to this topic.

So, I have – I'm on the – currently on the Disparities Committee and I also was on the committee that looked at the question of whether a measure is to be risk adjusted for social risk factors and also on the Cost and Resource Use Committee at NQF.

So, I'm really excited to be on the panel. We are currently undergoing an effort to screen all of our clinic patients for food insecurity. And, so, we're doing some pilots right now working through some of the issues and challenges.

And our plans are to also eventually screen everybody for (home assist) as well. And we've done some work developing a (home assist) indicator based on self-reported address. So, super excited to be on the panel. Thank you very much.

Vanessa Moy: Thank you.

Is Nancy Lawton-Kluck here?

Nancy Lawton-Kluck: I am. Thank you. I'm the chief philanthropy officer for Geisinger. And we recently launched the Springboard Initiative in January of this year which is focused on sustainable replicable solutions to population health-based issues. And our first initial was – our first initiative was on food insecurity.

We launch (inaudible) (pharmacy) project earlier this year. And they were looking at housing insecurity and multiple other opportunities to start changing the health of a population. And I echo everybody's comments. Very, very (thankful to be included in) the panel. Thank you very much.

Vanessa Moy: So, you're welcome. Thank you.

Is Prabhjot Singh here?

(Amanda Masidi): Hi. This is (Amanda Masidi). I'm working with Prabhjot. He has not joined yet, but he will shortly.

Vanessa Moy: OK. Thank you so much.

Is Clare Tanner here?

Clare Tanner: Hello. This is Clare Tanner. And I also am really excited about this opportunity. So, thank you. I am a program director at Michigan Public Health Institute. And in that capacity, I've been involved on CMMI-type grants with a number of communities as well as the state of Michigan implementing and evaluating programs that are meant to coordinate human services and medical care.

I am also co-director of the Data Across Sectors for Health National Program Office funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. And we have joined together with a number of other groups to sponsor all-in data for community health, the idea being that in order to better coordinate social and human services and medical care and address social determinants of health, a community needs the appropriate data infrastructure. And we work with communities around that. So, thanks.

Vanessa Moy: Thank you. Great.

Is there anyone else on the like that just joined or – yes. OK. Great.

Then I'll hand it next to Jean-Luc, who will give an overview of NQF.

Jean-Luc Tilly: Great. All right. Thank you very much, Vanessa Moy.

So, it sounds like many of you have worked with NQF before in (another capacity) or another. But, we thought a refresher might be helpful in any case.

And, so, you know, NQF has been around for almost two decades now and plays a really kind of unique role in the health care quality space where we're a non-profit and a non-partisan organization that is really all about convening – so, bringing together public and private stakeholders to reach consensus on health care performance measures and issues around health care, performance measurement and science. You know, our organizational mission is really to make health care in the U.S. better, safer and more affordable.

NQF also operates as a – as a membership organization. We actually 430 organizational members that includes hospitals, medical groups, health plans and physician societies, which – you know, our goal is to use – to leverage our members to enhance that kind of convening (role as) stakeholders.

We bring together almost 800 experts as volunteers, such as yourselves. We count you among those who work on our NQF standing committees and our network groups who work with us every year to help us make decisions about health care and quality measures.

And one final things about kind of our organizational mission is NQF's commitment to transparency, which is to say just about everything we do is very public. And, so, there will be recordings and transcripts of most of our meetings or, as is should say, all of our meetings. And you'll have – you'll be able to access those online. All the final reports are published, agendas and so forth. So, we want to foster a conversation with the public and not just with our stakeholders as much as possible.

So, the – so, NQF is a – is a private non-profit voluntary consensus standard-setting organization with really a kind of three-part mission to improving the quality of American health care.

So, that's building consensus on national priorities and goals for performance improvement and, you know, working as partners to achieve them; endorsing national consensus standards for measuring and publicly reporting health care performance; and promoting the attainment of national goals through different education and outreach programs.

And, you know, NQF is governed by its Board of Directors, a Consensus Standards Approval Committee, a leadership network, the membership council that all work together to kind of set the direction for the organization.

So, NQF has activities across many different measurement areas. So, the first (inaudible) programs are performance measurement endorsement, the work that we do as part of – what we call the consensus development process. We have endorsed about 600 performance measures across a variety – about 15 – different clinical areas. And we have a standing committee for each of those clinical areas that endorses performance measures.

The Measures Applications Partnership is a – consists of workgroups that advises the Department of Health and Human Services on selecting measures for about 20 different federal programs for Medicaid and health care exchanges. The National Quality Partners (convene) stakeholders around critical health (and health care topics) and works on different – patient safety, (elective delivery) and other issues.

And, finally, NQF is – works on measurement science – so, convening public and private (leaders) to reach consensus on complex issues in health care performance measurement.

So, these are areas where we think is working on, you know, sort of the cutting edge of measurement – so, attribution, aligning measures, working on the (inaudible) and so forth.

So, unless there are any questions about NQF's role and so forth, I'll pass it over to Vanessa, who will talk about the (specific project itself).

Vanessa Moy: Sure. Thanks, Jean-Luc.

So, just to go over a brief overview of the project, there are three objectives to the project. The first is to develop a measurement framework to assist food insecurity and housing instability. Also, we'll identify any existing measures and gaps in the measurement of food insecurity and housing instability. And from those existing measures and gaps, we will also start to prioritizes those areas in the measurement of food insecurity and housing instability for future measure development.

So, just to give you a brief of – overview of the project's timeline, the first thing is today we are hosting a webinar orientation just to give you guys an idea of measurement framework. And we'll also be hosting another one tomorrow for the rest of the panelists that can't join today.

And it's the same meeting materials for both of these orientation webinars. Also, during the last week of September, we'll be conducting key informant interviews, which is a part of the environment scan. And Drew will be talking about it in the upcoming slides.

For October 11, we'll be creating a memo summarizing those environmental scan findings. And, then, the next thing will be the October 18 in-person meeting with you, the expert panelists, in D.C. And, then, November 3, we will submit a draft Framework Report to Urban Institute for this project.

And, then, from November 3 to 17, we'll have a 14-day public comment period for you and also the public to report on the draft Measurement Framework Report. And, then, the week of November 27, we were planning to host a second webinar with you. And I recently send a Doodle poll to you guys last week.

So, we're still scheduling that. And if you could complete that Doodle poll by this Thursday, we'll appreciate it and we'll schedule that webinar as soon as possible. And then, for mid-December, internally NQF will go through a Consensus Standards Approval Committee called CSAC. And during this meeting, we will just give a brief informational update about the measurement framework. And then, lastly, the last part of the timeline is final report, which would be published on December 15.

And, then, I will just hold if you guys have any quick questions about the timeline.

Nancy Garrett: This is Nancy Garrett. I was just wondering about the origin of the project and who is funding it.

Vanessa Moy: So ...

Andrew Anderson: Sure. Sorry, Nancy. So, the project is actually being funded through CMS under the Urban Institute – so, in collaboration with those two groups. And they will also be – we are working with them really closely as we move throughout the project for our guidance and working with you all as well. So, sorry about that. (We should) ...

Nancy Garrett: And was there a particular catalyst for it or do you know what their motivation was at this time other than that's a super important topic, which I understand? But ...

Andrew Anderson: Right. So, they have – I know in particular Urban has done quite a bit of work in this area and they have been – it's kind of an ongoing area for them. So, we – obviously, the project is really important. So, we – this was just a kind of a way to move it forward.

But, really, the impetus behind this is that Urban is looking for measures – actual measures that we can potentially develop at the end of this. So, I'll talk a little bit about measure concepts. And, Nancy, you're familiar with our measure concepts here at NQF.

But, really looking at some concrete – developing some concrete concepts that can then be potentially incubated and translated into performance measures. So, that was the goal.

Nancy Garrett: Thank you.

Vanessa Moy: Thank you.

So, on to the next part of the slide. We'll be talking about the roles of you as the expert panel and the NQF staff.

So, as expert panelists, you will be serving as experts working with NQF staff to achieve the goals of the project that was mentioned previously on the slide. You will also be helping us to review meeting materials and participate in all webinar meetings and in-person meetings.

And you'll also guide and provide input on the environmental scans such as keywords and measure concepts. And you'll also guide and provide input on the development of the measurement framework and also help us to identify and prioritize measures of measure concepts related to the food insecurity and housing instability measurement framework as well. And, lastly, you'll provide recommendations for future activities related to the measurement framework.

So, for us as the NQF project staff team, we'll work with you, the panelists, to achieve project goals. So, we'll help organize and staff meetings and conference calls. We'll guide you to build consensus on the measurement framework. We'll also ensure communication among all the project participants. And we'll facilitate necessary communication and collaboration between the different NQF projects and external stakeholders as well.

We'll also respond to NQF member and public queries about the project, maintain documentation of the project activities. And we'll also draft and edit reports and project materials. And, lastly, we'll publish final project report.

And additionally, throughout the project, draft reports will be posted onto the project page where we welcome public comment from the public and NQF members, which they also play a role in this project.

So, for NQF members and the public at large, they'll engage in the work by reviewing draft reports and providing feedback to the NQF and the panel. And they'll also participate in the Web meetings and in-person during like opportunities for public comment period such as the draft Measurement Framework Report.

And, next, I will hand it over to John, who will give an overview of the framework project.

John Bernot: Great. Thanks, Vanessa.

So, I'm going to spend actually a fair amount of time going over the – what a framework project is to NQF and giving some examples. Please, please, please feel free to jump in at any point if you have any clarifying questions or anything that I can elaborate on. We definitely know that a lot of people have been part of NQF and worked with NQF before.

However, if you have not done a framework project, they're quite different and they have a very different flavor to them. And I think it's something that we want to make sure we point out and highlight the differences between framework projects and some of the other work we do.

So, I will – I will actually start by saying I really very much enjoy these projects. I have – I didn't give it quite (as an) elaborate (of an) introduction at the beginning. I have worked on a number of different framework projects here at NQF. And what I really enjoy about them is how creative they are. And why we're doing these is usually because there isn't good literature in this field.

And, so, you experts on the phone, you really are the research, you are the expertise, you are what's out there in the field. And we're trying to put this process to formalize it and get it down onto paper for you and to help facilitate that.

So, it's really exciting. It's a different way of thinking. It's a much more conceptual creative manner than maybe you have seen with some of the more regimented processes or committees, I should say, that you've been on.

So, going through this slide, the first one just saying – so this is not endorsement or MAP work. And Jean-Luc did a good job of explaining those. But, at the end of the day, we're not trying to take a measure and say for sure if this has the scientific acceptability and evidence et cetera.

That's not the goal of this. We're trying to get to a conceptual level. And it's not MAP work. We're not recommending anything at this stage to be included in an accountability program or payment program.

Our frameworks can be funded federally, i.e., through the CMS such as this or it can be funded from private groups. This is an opportunity for us to get information intelligences from experts like yourself in the field and put it around a topic that's difficult to digest.

And the next two are somewhat lumped together. But, the reason we do these is due to this lack of structure in a particular field. That's the best way I can do it. There is – we have this idea. We know it's important.

But, there is no one place, no authoritative place that you can point to around food insecurity or homeless – housing instability and say "This is exactly how I would group it. This is a good way to start measuring it." And, so, that's what we're going to develop over the next couple of months. And I think it's really exciting to have the opportunity to do that as a group.

So, this slide just shows that our framework project are part of the larger group of NQF work. And there's a lot of different things. I will not go into the details of all of these.

But, the frameworks are so great because these foundational documents can influence all of these. Down the road, we do hope it will influence the endorsement process. We do hope it will inform accountability programs through the Measure Applications Partnership. But, right now, what we're doing is trying to lay that foundation so that all of these other things can happen going forward.

This is a bit about our strategic plan. And I won't spend a lot of time going through all of the details. But, I really want to draw your attention to that top right corner saying, "Prioritize measures and gaps." I think a lot of people would tell us – just common sense would tell us food insecurity and housing instability – that's a priority.

But, how do you prioritize the measures and the gaps and really identify those? What it takes is it takes a structure, a framework. And, so, we're hoping to get to that level over the course of the next few months. And I'm going to go through the steps very shortly here, the steps that we'll take as a committee to get to that end result.

So, this slide here just shows pretty much everything about a measure from the measure conceptualization, (the whole way – until it) being implemented in a program and formally being used. I won't go through, again, on this – every box on here. But, I want to let you know that the framework projects really can influence all of the above stages.

As we do – and Drew will talk a lot about our environmental scan – we can definitely find things in there that are already some measures that exist that we may – we may want to look at and we'll take a look at how they're used and if there's anything endorsed.

But, I just wanted to let you know these framework projects will largely be at the measure conceptualization side because we expect that there is not always

the right amount of measures out there or the right measure for what our topic is. But, we really will look at everything and we expect that at the end of the day it will inform the whole process longitudinally from end to end.

With our experience here at NQF, we've done quite a few of these, quite a few framework projects. And I will not read you all of these. But, you can see this is – this is not the first go around at this. I think we get better every time.

These, again, being conceptual and being creative, have a different flavor to them, for sure, than some of the other projects that we have. And each one takes its own life. But, as far as I'm concerned, each one has also turned out a really, really good product at the end and something that all the committees have been very proud of the work that they complete at the end.

I like – I like this – there's actually an image missing here. I'm not sure if you could see. That's OK if you can't see it. But – there it is. So, it's really truly what we get. As I mentioned, every one of those framework projects and even the ones – every one that I've been on, every one has their own flavor, for sure. There's just not question about it. And the other is they're kind of sticky like the chocolates, too.

But, we're going to work through that. We have – we have a process to get through the sticky process. And along the way, we'll find that things go sometimes different directions from one of the framework projects to the – to the next. But, I'm going to introduce the regimen that we're going to take to try to take these conceptual ideas and actually put something down this concrete at the end.

So, key differences. Again, I know a lot of you have been part of NQF. If you're – if this is the first time you're working with us, well, then, this may actually be easier. To some extent, (because there is nothing), this is the only thing you know. But, those of you who mentioned you've been on different committees, I want to make sure I point out some things that differ between framework projects and other projects.

We're not evaluating measures, at least not for the scientific acceptability like we do in an endorsement project. We are not saying this measure should be in MIPS or some other value-based program. That is not the goal of this. Every one of these has a little bit different timeframe and deliverables.

So, if you have been on another framework project, you'll know that there's flexibility even within the framework projects. We spend more time of the literature and environment scan because we are in the process, as I mentioned, on the framework project of really trying to develop the foundation. And, so, we really want to know what is already out there.

That, coupled with the expertise on the committee, is what's going to form the foundation. And the likelihood of voting on anything is very low. Sometimes, we have a bit of a polling, maybe, to say how would you like to categorize things. But, the formal voting that you're used to on MAP or CDP is not a routine part of the framework projects at all.

All right. So, we're going to go into the structure of a measurement framework. And this is – please stop me if you have any questions. This is what we expect to do over the next few months with this group.

As it says for step one, throughout the process, we have multi-stakeholder guidance and input. That's all of your input. That is public and member comments. It's going to be available. We run a very transparent process here and we really do want other people to be contributing at each step along the way.

Drew will talk about the environmental scan, the literature search. But, one of the first things we do is really try to say "What is even out there? Is there a place where we can start?" The better the literature is, the better of a jumping-off point we might have. Sometimes there is a little bit and sometimes there is almost none. We'll take these.

We are going to try to synthesize this in conjunction with you. But, we also will take on responsibility for the legwork. That's part of our role at NQF. So, we want your thoughts and ideas. We don't want you to have to be doing

all of the work of synthesizing this. And it is an iterative approach. I can't stress that enough.

So, what we put one day after you think about it – we get some new information. It may change the committee's thought process. That's OK. We expect this to be - we expect it to be gray at times and we gradually will refine. And sometimes we back up. But, we'll synthesize with you in an iterative process.

And, then, we're going to draft a conceptual framework. It will be something that we do where we actually put together that. And I still haven't told you what a framework looks like, but I'll get to that next. But, we'll put a draft of our framework together.

Then, once again, iteration, iteration, iteration. The committee will work. It will go through the ability for other members and public to give us input on it. And, then, we come up with a final conceptual framework with a published paper that we all can all hang our hat on that has the recommendations in it.

So, what is a measurement framework? I mentioned we're going to write a draft framework and then a final framework. But, what is it? It's a – it's an organizing framework. It's what it is. So, it is a way to take different – sorry – take different subject matter and really boil it down into different buckets – so, different cubby holes that you can put something.

And it gives us a logical model for saying how can we approach this particular field. There are some components that are going to be in every framework. The first component is domain. So, our highest-level structure will be the domain. We'll break those down into subdomains and come up with measure concepts as a – as a group.

Again, I want to reiterate, though, that it is – it is – it's organizing structure. It's not – we don't implement a framework. The framework gives us the pieces that can be implemented where we – where it identifies the gaps and also what might already be out there in the field.

Some things – and these are some considerations. I'm not going to go through these one by one. But, as we're coming up of concepts, there would be different questions that we'll be asking ourselves. So, I won't spend a lot of time on this particular slide. I'm going to move to the next slide for you here.

And I think this one gives us what we'll be doing as a group together and how we'll be facilitating and you'll be able to be as creative as you possibly can. You're going to have ideas.

This could be an idea based on literature, based on something you've seen or an idea on something that you know we need but that does not exist. All of these ideas we will take. And as we start to categorize them, we're going to come up with a number of domains that could be anywhere as small as three or four domains to – what did we say, Drew in ...

Andrew Anderson: Thirteen.

John Bernot: We've got the 13 domains for a larger project. I don't think we'll get up to 13 domains here. But, depending on the scope of the project, we'll come up with domains. These are the highest-level grouping for the food insecurity or housing instability.

Within one of those groupings – and I am totally making this up. This may not be with the committee lens on. But, let's say interventions to reduce – interventions with the domain on food insecurity – different types of interventions.

It could be outpatient, inpatient as subdomain. It could – there is – all those types of subdivisions would be ways you go from a domain to a subdomain and then the measure concept. And, sticking with that theme, the intervention in the outpatient setting, I believe, is a concept that a script should be written as a referral to a food bank as a measure concept.

Totally making this up. But, just so you can see how we would start to break down and put some structure, some categorization around measure concepts. And, then, that will develop the draft framework.

This gives us a better – some actual definitions of those that I just mentioned, the way these are categorized, the large, broad category – usually a handful, again, three to four depending on the topic. Subdomains could be anywhere from one or two subdomains within a domain to four, five, six, seven, eight subdomains. So, it really depends on what that high-level category was, what makes sense the way we break it up.

And, then, the measure concept is what I think you're going to be really – where a lot of your development and interest is going to be. And that's the description of what this potential tool/measure would look like with a plan target and population.

We're not planning to get into the level of every single numerator, denominator, exclusions, inclusions, exceptions. That's not the scope of this. This is to get those great ideas down that will be a foundation for our measure development group to pick up and then actually do that scientific work of figuring out exceptions and inclusions and exclusions for that idea.

The other thing I want to mention here because we get this feedback a bit from people is, well, there is not – there is not data. What's the data behind that measure concept? We have a mixture here of what we think are short-term probably data-driven, (the – whole way up through) longer-term aspirational measure concepts.

So, you do not have to limit yourself to something that we already can justify. That's part of the process we expect. If as an expert committee here we're saying that we think this is the right measure concept, that's good. That's something we want. We want that aspirational things that the data just hasn't got there yet in the literature.

The last piece explains what a performance measure is. And that's what I was – I was – I was explaining. We're not going to do that in the framework discussions here.

Ron Bialeck: John?

John Bernot: Yes?

Ron Bialeck: This is Ron Bialeck. I have a question for you about the target audience for these particular measures. You know, typically, the NQF target audience are – is the clinical community. And, you know, these measures could be measures that would be quite useful for community development financial institutions, for instance. Is the target beyond the clinical community here or is it ...

John Bernot: Definitely, the target is beyond the clinical community for sure, especially on something like this. But, even on our other framework projects, we don't try to limit it to one particular setting. We want this to be – I don't want to say (so generic) that it's watered down.

But, we want this to be broad enough that it's applicable to someone in the community setting, the clinical setting, financial setting, even payer or person/patient. We believe there should be relevance to them as they look at these. So, that's a great question.

Ron Bialeck: OK. Thank you. It's helpful.

John Bernot: So, the last – the last slide I have here – and I've already given you an example. But, I'm going to give you an example from one of the frameworks that we have actually done. And this is our home and community-based services framework.

And just to show you what one of the domains was – and as Drew mentioned, there was a – there was a number on this particular project. But, one domain was Patient-Centered Planning and Coordination. And the committee, yourself, at one point will define – as we make these, we'll define them and, then, we'll put a description of that domain.

With Inpatient Center Planning Coordination, among others, there was a subdomain called Assessment. And as you can see – I won't read you the – all of the text. But, that's the way it was approached. OK. We assess things

inside here, and subdomain, and this led to identifying the goals, needs, preferences and values.

Within that subdomain is where the measure concepts live. And I will read you this one. This is – the concept was a percent of individuals responding "Yes" to this question – "Do you believe that the results of your level of case assessment identifies your real needs?"

And, so, that is a great example of the level of granularity that we hope this committee will come up with. So, you have the organizing structure, domain and subdomain. And, then, you'll actually begin to fill it with ideas, which are the measure concepts.

All right. I know that was a lot of information and rapid-fired through much of it. So, I want to stop here and make sure – and see if there's any questions whatsoever about the process that we're going to undergo over the next couple of months.

OK. Believe me, we will reiterate this. There will – there will be a need to remind ourselves, the committee over time. It seems very cut and dry on paper. We spend a bit of time sometimes course correcting and redirecting and making sure things stay on track here. But, I want to prepare people that if you have been on the other committees that's it's very different flavor to this if you have not done them before.

They almost at times can feel like "Where are we going?" But, I just want to reassure you that – I don't know how else to say this except at the end of the day, the process has really worked over all of these projects.

And, so, if you ever get to the point where you're feeling that it's too nebulous, that's our job. We'll continue to try to get this refined and use this process. It has worked so many times. And I do really, really believe at the end of this, you're going to be really pleased with the work that you as a committee come up with.

So, please let me know if there's questions now or as time goes on. And there'll probably be some that comes up over the upcoming weeks and months.

All right. With that, I'll turn it over to Drew, who is really our expert on the environmental scan. He has done a lot of work in this space.

Andrew Anderson: So – yes. So, the purpose of the environmental scan – and, (in essence), John had mentioned some components of it. But, it's really to support the development of the measurement framework. And it includes a search for measures.

So, that's really looking at the current measurement landscape and seeing what are the existing measures. And we'll try to captures measures that are, you know, implemented in research and also in practice. It also helps us come up with some draft measure concepts to prevent – to present to the committee and also, you know, actual measures that can be used to inform the development of the framework.

The environmental scan is also used to identify gaps in measurement. So, we will assess what concepts are not currently being measured or undermeasured or inadequately measured, and we will provide some context around that.

We'll also be looking at effective interventions to – in both of these areas of food and housing insecurity. We'll look at existing frameworks and try to make sure that we're building on previous work and not repeating anything that's been done before.

Next slide.

So, these are the main research questions that are guiding the scan. We like to make sure that we set out, you know, very clearly what it is what we're searching for from the beginning. These first two questions on the slide address what I just went over, what the scan will cover. So, then, the last two questions are more so what we'll be looking at in the literature.

So, what are the challenges to measurement in food insecurity and housing instability? What are some of the opportunities for measurement, you know, and even possibilities for future research?

So, really, we're pulling together all of the – a sample of the seminal works, the most commonly used measures in the field and the most important research in this area to support you all in developing the framework.

In terms of operational definitions, I'll just read this. So, we're going to be using these two definitions. The first one is, for food insecurity, we're using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's definition that it is a limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable food in socially acceptable ways.

The second definition for housing instability is from HHS. It is high housing costs in proportion to income, poor housing quality, unstable neighborhoods, overcrowding or homelessness. And, so, we all like to make sure that we have some working operational definitions from the beginning to make sure that we are, you know, searching the literature in a more systematic way.

Next slide.

And feel free to jump in with any questions or suggestions as I go through this as we definitely want to get your input and this is really an effort that will be directed by you all.

So, as I mentioned, the literature review is really to provide context to the scan of measures. We'll be reviewing peer-reviewed journals and academic databases such as PubMed, Academic Search Complete, Premier using a defined set of search parameters and terms which we'll provide to you all.

We'll also be looking beyond the peer-reviewed literature and looking at gray literature – so, government publications and reports from relevant foundations, associations, non-profit groups.

So, we know that there has been a lot of work done in that area to even conceptualize and define what measurement should look like in both of these areas. So, we will pull all of that and synthesize it for your review to try to provide you with the most current state of the evidence.

And as Vanessa mentioned a little earlier – next slide – we will be going beyond the – so, of course, you all are directing this work. We'll be gathering input from you as well as the NQF members and the public. But, we'll also be conducting key informant interviews.

And, so, these are really semi-structured interviews where we'll be working or gathering information from people who are working in the field, experts in measurements and researchers, people who have – are kind of on the ground. It's really the people that we're aiming for.

We have a current list of key informants, and we'll be reaching out to them over the next week. But, we're also inviting you all to provide others that you think would be important for us to speak to one on one. And we will be taking that information and bringing it back to you all to help inform the work that you'll be doing moving forward.

Nancy Garrett: Hi. This is Nancy. Just a quick question on that. Will you be asking for those names during this call? Should we just follow up with a separate email if we have people that should be included? Or what's the process for adding people to that list?

Andrew Anderson: Yes. Could you follow up – we'd like you to follow up with us after the call. We have a projects mailbox that's actually at the end of the slide deck. It's included in the meeting appointment. So, it's foodandhousing@qualityforum.org. So, feel free to send those over right after this call or now.

Nancy Garrett: Thank you.

Andrew Anderson: Next slide.

I'm just going back to the measure review to give you an example of the type of information that we're collecting. So, for the performance measures that we find – and we imagine that a lot of the measures in this area are related to, you know, screening and assessment tools.

So, we'll be collecting information, of course, on the title, the data sources, the level of analysis, the focus and, of course, the description. We typically require for the performance measures that we collect a numerator and a denominator statement.

So, NQF separates the different types of measures out because measure is a kind of a broader topic. We have performance measures. We have surveys. We have tools. We have, you know, toolkits, all different kinds of resources that are used for – or people refer to as measures. So, we'll be separating those out to make sure that we capture everything.

And some of the – as I mentioned, we'll be looking in the literature and pulling out commonly measured concepts and – but, we'll also be looking in measure inventories. So, of course, we have our NQF-endorsed measures here, which is a repository of over 600 measures that Jean-Luc mentioned.

But, we'll also be looking in the HRQ Quality Measures Clearinghouse and also looking in like the CMS Measures Inventory to see, you know, what is being measured now. But, we imagine that a lot of these measures are going to be, again, found in the literature and in the gray lit.

Nancy Garrett: And this is Nancy Garrett. Just to comment on the measure review framework on page 37.

Andrew Anderson: Yes.

Nancy Garrett: I just – I guess just a heads up. I feel like some of the measures we're going to look at might not neatly fit into some of these categories because they're not traditional health care measures.

So, for example, I mentioned we're going to be doing food insecurity screening at (HCMC). And the questions we're using are from a Children's (Health Watch) research study. And there starting to be a lot of (coalesce) around these two questions. But, I don't know that there's really an (MC accountable for improving performance on them yet). It's really too early for that. So ...

Andrew Anderson: Right. Yes. That's a – that's a good point. So, really, we're also going to be – this is kind of how we would define a performance measure if we were able to gather all of this information. If we're only able to have a description or a set of questions that are pulled from a questionnaire, we would define that as a measure concept.

Nancy Garrett: I see.

Andrew Anderson: Or something that could be then developed into a new measure that could be used for more wide use. So – and, actually, we can provide you with some of the definitions that we use to define measures at NQF that will be helpful. (Sorry). But, we won't – just to reiterate, we won't be missing those measures that you mentioned.

Nancy Garrett: OK. Thank you.

Andrew Anderson: And, then – I forgot to mention – so, a lot of – all of this – all of our scanning and the interviews that we'll be doing will be documented in a memo that we'll provide to you in October. And that's really to help inform the in-person meeting that we'll be having on the 18th.

So, you'll have all of this information by then. But, we anticipate that we'll continue our search throughout the project and updating it as we move towards finalizing the deliverables. So, just as John mentioned, it's an iterative process.

Are there any other questions on the environmental scan? We'll be – of course, be providing more information as we move through (inaudible).

Clare Tanner: Yes. I have a question. This is Clare. And I think it's a follow-up question to some of the questions that have been asked. But, I'm – when you – when the question was asked, is there an assumed setting? So, for instance in the National Qualities Indicator, you can search for ambulatory settings, hospital settings et cetera.

But, when we think about food and housing, the settings, as was mentioned, go way beyond that. So, are we thinking of, you know, at a community level? You know, what is the coordination, say, between housing and health care? Or are we thinking – the scope could just be so huge.

Are we thinking, you know, at a food bank level? Are they providing nutritionally adequate food? Do they know the nutritional needs of their clients given their health status et cetera – et cetera. I mean, I guess I could use some sort of boundaries.

Andrew Anderson: Right. Yes. That's a good point. So, we – a part of our process is walking you through a prioritization. Right now, it's still broad in terms of its – you know, John mentioned that we are really including all settings, that it would be relevant. But, we plan to have a discussion with you all as a full expert panel about the areas that we need to focus on more in the near term based on the available measures and data sources.

And then, of course, we can come up with recommendations for the longer term. But, we might spend the bulk of our discussions on that, the near-term – the settings that it would be most important and feasible to address now. So, I know that's kind of vague. But, it – just know that it's a part of the process to narrow the scope.

Clare Tanner: OK. Thanks.

Andrew Anderson: Yes.

Any other questions?

OK. I'm going to turn it over to Vanessa to talk a little bit about – so, we actually can do a public comment? Yes. Let's open it up for public comment first.

Operator?

Operator: Ladies and gentlemen, if you would like to make a public comment, please press star, one on your telephone keypad. Again, star, one for public comments.

And, currently, there are no public comments at this time.

Andrew Anderson: OK. I'm going to turn it over to Vanessa to talk a little bit about our collaboration tools.

Vanessa Moy: Sure. So, as Drew mentioned, we have a collaboration tool called SharePoint Overview for U.S. Expert Panelists. In a couple of days, you will be getting access information and login information to the SharePoint from (Connie) from Nominations department.

And on the SharePoint, when you have access to it, you'll be able to retrieve all the webinar materials such as from today's webinar from the orientation and also upcoming meetings such as the in-person meeting. And that's where you'll be able to get all those materials beforehand. And, also, we'll also post up the draft Measurement Framework Report for you input in the future as well.

OK. And the next thing that I'll be talking about would be the next steps for this project. As Drew mentioned, the next steps would be the key informant interviews, which we'll conduct end of September. And, also, we'll be drafting a memo that we'll share with you of the environmental scan findings.

And, then, the next step is that we're having an in-person meeting with all of you expert panelists here in D.C. in NQF office. It will be on October 18. It will be a one-day in-person meeting. You will also be getting an email from our meetings department on how to book the travel and the hotel. And they're all reimbursed by NQF. You should be getting that email soon.

And, so, that's about all we have for this meeting. Do you have any questions or concerns or any other suggestions? And, also, before I ask that – sorry about that – we are also – if you would like to give us suggestions for the key informant interviews, here is our email address, which is foodandhousing@qualityforum.org.

And if you'd like to get a hold of us by phone, here is the phone number. And as the team mentioned, we value transparency. So, a lot of our documents for the webinars and in-person meetings will be posted on the project page linked here. So – yes. So, if you guys have any other questions, please let us know.

Andrew Anderson: And just to add, we'll probably – you know, based on our conversations today and with the others tomorrow, we may arrange, you know – not to say like homework prior to the in-person meeting. But, we will probably be reaching out between now and then and us providing you with the memo documenting the environmental scan to gather additional input.

Vanessa Moy: So, I guess there's no questions from all of you. So, thank you for joining this meeting. And we'll hope to like talk to you soon in the in-person meeting. And if you have any questions, just email us or call us. Thank you.

Female: Thank you.

Male: Thanks.

Female: Thank you

Female: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you for calling in for today's call. You may now disconnect.

                    END