

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

March 22, 2022

Council members present: Ms. Laura Adams; Mr. Rob Birmingham, Office of the State Auditor; Ms. Fay Donohue; Ms. Lauren Peters, designee of Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Mr. Niels Puetthoff, designee of Commissioner Gary Anderson, Division of Insurance; Ms. Cassandra Roeder, designee of Secretary Michael Heffernan, Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Dr. Meredith Rosenthal; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; and Ms. Sandra Wolitzky, Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Donohue called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2021, meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Campbell then began his executive director's report. He provided a brief update on CHIA's finances, including noting where the agency was in the FY 2023 budget process. Mr. Campbell explained to the Council that the agency was implementing its hybrid work model, beginning with in-person work on a voluntary basis.

He also discussed with the Council CHIA's recently published *Annual Report on the Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System*, which would be presented later in the meeting. Mr. Campbell discussed the value of the Annual Report, but also highlighted some of the limitations that stem from the data that the Annual Report analyzes. He invited the Council to think through subject areas that CHIA could study using the more flexible e-APCD that is in development, versus relying solely on the Annual Report as a source.

Ms. Emma Schlitzer, CHIA's External Affairs Manager, was invited to provide an update on CHIA recent and upcoming publications, as well as walk through legislative developments. She first walked the Council through several significant health care bills under consideration by the Legislature that would expand CHIA's responsibilities. The Council briefly discussed the new roles that CHIA would have, as well as the status of this legislation. Ms. Schlitzer concluded by outlining CHIA's publications during the past quarter, as well as what was forthcoming from the agency.

III. HEALTH EQUITY REPORT PRESENTATION

Mr. Campbell then introduced a recent report published by CHIA, *Health Insurance Coverage and Care in Massachusetts, 2015-2019: A Baseline Assessment of Gaps by Age, Race and Ethnicity, and Income*. He provided some background on this report and explained to the Council that this report's data was sourced from the *2020 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey (MHIS)*. Ms. Huong Trieu, Senior Director of Research, and Ms. Amy DeSantis, Senior Researcher, were invited to present significant findings from the report.

Ms. Trieu opened the presentation by providing additional background and context on the health care equity report and why this field of study is important. Ms. DeSantis proceeded to highlight findings on health care coverage, access, utilization, and affordability in Massachusetts. The Council discussed various aspects of the report, including various insurance eligibility requirements and any limitations in data collection from particular survey questions.

Ms. Trieu concluded the presentation by outlining expected next steps, including the publication of a health care equity report by geographic region and the next MHIS results.

**Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council
March 22, 2022**

IV. ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION

Mr. Campbell introduced CHIA's *Annual Report on the Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System*, which was published in early March. He explained that many of the CHIA staff responsible for the report were going to present key findings to the Council.

The CHIA team opened with providing background information on the report and what was new to the report this year. They proceeded to highlight the findings from this year's report, including Massachusetts' total health care expenditures and total medical expenses; key quality measures; member cost-sharing and premium amounts; acute hospital and nursing facility utilization; as well as Massachusetts hospital financial trends. This year's report notably included data from the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Massachusetts health care system.

The Council discussed the importance of CHIA's Annual Report, especially with the inclusion of data showing the impact of COVID-19 in 2020. The Council also contemplated how CHIA may best disseminate findings from this report to stakeholders, including using additional data storytelling techniques.

Mr. Campbell concluded the discussion by asking the Council to consider any topical areas that CHIA should explore more.

V. CLOSING

With no other business to discuss, Ms. Donohue sought to adjourn the meeting; the meeting concluded at 1:05 p.m.