

**Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council  
Meeting of March 28, 2017**

**Council members present:** Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Chair); Ms. Fay Donohue (Vice Chair); Ms. Laura Adams; Ms. Alicia B. Curran; Acting Commissioner Gary Anderson, Division of Insurance; Ms. Lauren Peters, designee of Secretary Kristen Lepore, Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; Mr. Colin Hill; and Ms. Karen Tseng.

Noting the presence of a quorum, Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

**I. WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES [VOTE]**

Secretary Sudders introduced the vote for approval for the prior meeting's minutes. The Council voted unanimously to approve the prior meeting minutes.

**II. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Peters reported that the committee approved CHIA's FY18 budget, and gave an update on CHIA's capital funding request. Ms. Adams asked for further detail on CHIA's budget reductions and whether they were expected. Mr. Campbell replied that they were expected, and consisted mostly of voluntary attrition and large reductions in IT spending. He also noted that CHIA successfully identified a tenant to share its office space at 501 Boylston, which would be a significant factor in allowing CHIA to reach its spending goals. Ms. Tseng inquired about the agency's long-term financing plans through FY19 and FY20. Mr. Campbell explained that CHIA planned to use capital funds to free up spending that would otherwise be included in the operating budget. He added that CHIA's capital needs are expected to decrease each year, lessening their financial impact. Prior to concluding the finance committee discussion, Secretary Sudders acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Campbell and the agency in working through the budget issues.

**III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Campbell stated that he wanted to highlight the transparency website development, as well as the Request for Information (RFI) that was issued regarding the MA APCD. He walked the Council through CHIA's work on the website, stating that the agency is currently in phase 1 of development, including choosing the vendor. The goal, he added, is to have a website launched in fall 2017. Mr. Campbell emphasized that the site will be built in an iterative and scalable fashion, and that additional functionality will be added post-launch. Mr. Campbell discussed with the Council various lessons learned through stakeholder engagement and the Provider Price Variation Commission. The transparency site will include pricing information, quality and safety information, educational materials, as well as small provider compliance support mechanisms.

Ms. Adams asked where CHIA's legal obligation stems from, and Mr. Campbell answered that the site is included in CHIA's enabling statute (MGL 12C §20). A discussion ensued regarding the use of the site and how best to serve intended users.

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Mr. Campbell then explained that CHIA had recently issued an RFI related to the MA APCD. He noted that the RFI will be used to better understand available options for making the MA APCD a more analytically-ready tool, including the addition of groupers and risk adjusters. Mr. Campbell explained that the next step will be to determine the cost of the work and choose a vendor. Mr. Hill asked about the budget for this project and the expected timeframe, to which Mr. Campbell replied that both questions were still being determined. The Council then discussed the merits and drawbacks to hiring a vendor to perform work previously carried out by the agency, as well as what risks may be mitigated in advance.

Mr. Campbell also provided an update on the *Gobeille vs. Liberty Mutual* Supreme Court decision, arguing that its impact on data collection efforts for the MA APCD will be less than expected. He noted that the decrease in substance use data submissions had a larger, more negative impact. Mr. Campbell explained that CHIA is exploring several opportunities to allow CHIA to continue to collect substance use claims.

**IV. ROLE OF THE COUNCIL**

Mr. Campbell described a conversation with Fay Donohue around the role of the Council, which has not clearly been defined. Ms. Donohue then walked through the various roles the Council could play, including acting as an oversight board or acting in an advisory capacity. A discussion ensued regarding the Council's role. Secretary Sudders stressed the importance of the Council identifying CHIA's priorities, to which Ms. Tseng voiced approval. Ms. Tseng suggested that the Council create working groups based on identified priorities. Ms. Peters noted approval for working groups. The Council asked that CHIA notify them when notable agency events occur, such as the issuing of the MA APCD RFI, or testifying before a legislative committee. Similarly, the Council asked for a monthly status report such as the type of information the Health Policy Commission provides its board each month.

**V. CLOSING**

There being no other official business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.