

**Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council
Meeting of March 3, 2016**

Council members present: Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Interim Chair); Ms. Laura Adams; Ms. Alicia B. Curran; Ms. Fay Donohue; Mr. Bill Geary; Commissioner Daniel Judson, Division of Insurance; Mr. Colin Hill; Ms. Lauren Peters, designee of Secretary Kristen Lepore, Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Dr. Meredith Rosenthal; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; and Ms. Karen Tseng.

Noting the presence of a quorum, Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, called to order the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

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

Secretary Sudders introduced the vote for approval for the prior meeting's minutes. Mr. Geary moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Peters duly seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to approve the prior meeting minutes.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Boros reminded the Council of the upcoming FY 2017 budget hearing being held at the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) on March 14. Mr. Boros briefly summarized the Administration and Finance (A&F) subcommittee meeting held on February 29 on CHIA's FY 2016 spending. The Council directed Mr. Boros to create a document linking CHIA's analytic agenda items to the project-based budget created for the prior meeting.

Mr. Boros began CHIA's data asset report, discussing the type and number of applicants approved for the Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database (MA APCD), as well as the speed of the entire process. A discussion ensued regarding the definition of public interest and its role in the MA APCD application and approval process. The Council requested a list of the Data Release Committee (DRC) members, a walkthrough of the DRC review process, and what constitutes public interest. The Council asked for a complete list of applicants for the MA APCD as well as a fuller understanding of the data application experience either through a survey or another means to gather information. Mr. Boros then reviewed with the Council the US Supreme Court's decision in *Gobeille v Liberty Mutual* and its impact on the MA APCD.

Mr. Boros brought to the Council's attention efforts to clarify federal 42 CFR Part 2 regulations issued by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). He explained that the regulations, which lack reference to APCDs, had produced a gap in understanding important substance abuse issues. Mr. Boros stated that CHIA, in partnership with the APCD Council and sister agencies, is drafting an official comment to submit to SAMHSA. The Council asked that a copy of this comment be distributed, to which Mr. Boros agreed.

Mr. Boros shared the Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey (MHIS) and Massachusetts Employer Survey release plans, stating that CHIA will now publish the surveys in alternating years due to the stabilization of metrics. A discussion ensued regarding the costs of the MHIS and where the funds currently allocated to it in the FY 2017 budget will be distributed going forward. Mr. Boros concluded the Executive Director's Report by discussing CHIA's most

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recent publications, including the Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System Annual Report Series. Mr. Geary departed the Council meeting at 10:00 a.m.

III. REVIEW OF HPC RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Boros directed the Council to the document highlighting recommendations from the Health Policy Commission (HPC) as it pertains to CHIA. It was discussed that the recommendations can be grouped into three categories: current CHIA efforts, areas of greater investment, and new initiatives.

IV. CHIA'S ANALYTIC AGENDA

Prior to presenting on CHIA's analytic agenda, Secretary Sudders requested the opportunity to discuss the health care consumer transparency website contemplated under Chapter 224. Mr. Boros gave a brief history of the Commonwealth's consumer transparency efforts. After discussing the merits of this effort, Secretary Sudders called for a motion to create a committee dedicated to the development of the site. Mr. Seltz moved to establish such a committee, which Ms. Rosenthal duly seconded.

Mr. Boros proceeded to review CHIA's analytic agenda, including the decision making process the agency uses in deciding which reports to produce, linking them to CHIA's major data assets. Mr. Boros reiterated that he hopes the Council will have a play an important role in developing CHIA's analytic agenda. The Council asked that for 2015 publications further context be provided around why certain reports were produced, their audience, and what they were used for. A discussion ensued regarding linking CHIA's various data sets, and the importance of such an endeavor. Mr. Boros offered to arrange a meeting for interested parties on linkages between data sets. Ms. Adams departed the Council meeting at 10:29 a.m.

V. CLOSING

Secretary Sudders requested that in the next Council meeting there be a discussion around the analytic agenda items CHIA is pursuing, along with the reasons why. She additionally requested that any input that CHIA is receiving from the health care industry in general be included. The Council asked that they be informed of the results from FY 2017 budget hearing.

There being no other official business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.