

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

June 21, 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; and Ms. Sandra Wolitzky, Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Donohue called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2022, meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Campbell began his executive director's report by providing a brief update on the FY 2023 budget, which is still in the process of being developed by the Legislature. He then walked the Council through how agency employee resources are divided between its administrative, analytic, and data operations and technology categories. Mr. Campbell gave a quick update on the status of the e-APCD project, noting that it is moving towards a more fully functioning state by the end of the summer. Council members briefly discussed CHIA's current and planned outreach to stakeholders on the completion of the e-APCD.

Ms. Emma Schlitzer, CHIA's External Affairs Manager, provided a legislative update for the Council, including that a mental health bill recently passed the House that—if signed into law—would direct CHIA to conduct additional analysis of behavioral health services and expenditures. She noted that the Senate passed a corresponding bill in November 2021 and a conference committee has been appointed to reconcile the two versions of the legislation.

III. HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND CARE IN MASSACHUSETTS, 2015-2019: A BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF GAPS BY REGION

Mr. Campbell then introduced Ms. Amy DeSantis, Senior Researcher, and Ms. Kalifa Wright, Senior Research Analyst, from CHIA's Research team to present findings from the health care equity by geographic region report. He noted that CHIA is unique in its analysis of health care equity by demographic characteristics and geographic region. Ms. DeSantis opened the presentation by noting that CHIA is unique in its continued analysis of health care equity and explained to that the report series is sourced from the Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey (MHIS). Ms. Wright then shared notable findings from the report. Ms. DeSantis concluded the presentation by discussing upcoming research briefs further that will further explore health care equity, as well as the upcoming publication of the 2021 MHIS.

IV. 2021 MASSACHUSETTS EMPLOYER SURVEY (MES) RESULTS

Ms. Huong Trieu, the Senior Director of Research, and Ms. Bridget Gayer, Associate Manager of Research, presented the results from the 2021 Massachusetts Employer Survey (MES). Ms. Trieu introduced the survey to the Council, noting that this survey covers private businesses only and has been conducted every other year since 2014, which enables important trend analysis. Next, Ms. Gayer shared major findings from the survey, opening with describing the populations that the MES covers: Massachusetts firms, employees, and covered employees who are enrolled in employer-sponsored health insurance. Among the MES findings was also information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council members asked follow-up questions on the distribution of new enrollment between public and private payers during the covered time period and if the data showed where individual enrollees came from.

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V. CLOSING

With no other business to discuss, Ms. Donohue sought to adjourn the meeting; the meeting concluded at 3:04 p.m.