

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

June 22, 2021

Council members present: Mr. Rob Birmingham, Office of the State Auditor; Ms. Fay Donohue; Mr. Eric Gold, designee of Ms. Sandra Wolitzky, Office of the Attorney General; 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; and Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission.

Ms. Donohue called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2021 meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote; the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Donohue then invited Mr. Campbell to proceed with his Executive Director's report. He briefly walked the Council through CHIA's FY 2022 budget, noting that the state budget is still being developed by the Legislature. Mr. Campbell explained that CHIA's appropriation has remained steady, however, between the House and Senate versions of the budget. Mr. Campbell plans to provide further detail at the September Council meeting, including the discontinuation of CHIA's payment to the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund (CHRTF). Ms. Donohue asked about the FY 2022 Oversight Council budget hearing. Mr. Campbell explained that no members of the public registered to testify at the hearing and no written testimony was offered.

Ms. Emma Schlitzer, CHIA's External Affairs Manager, then updated the Council on CHIA's recently produced and forthcoming publications. The Council also briefly discussed the mandated benefit reviews that CHIA had recently completed. Mr. Campbell reiterated to the Council the degree of work that CHIA invests in its reports. Council members expressed interest in understanding stakeholder and user engagement with CHIA's reports and publications.

III. E-APCD PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Campbell next introduced Ashley Storms, Associate Director, to provide an update to the Council on CHIA's enhanced APCD project. Ms. Storms began her presentation by reviewing with the Council how the e-APCD project began and the analytic capabilities of the dataset at that time. She then discussed the progress of the project to date, and its current state. Ms. Storms proceeded to demonstrate to the Council some examples of the e-APCD's functionality. Using both a pre-populated Tableau dashboard and building one live, she showed Council members how CHIA staff will be able to use the e-APCD and the types of research questions it can answer. Ms. Storms particularly noted that CHIA analysts will no longer need to rely so heavily on data programmers to perform their work, but instead will be able directly utilize the functions of the e-APCD to gather and analyze the requisite data. The Council also discussed briefly how CHIA's data is stored and how staff access the e-APCD, as well as how well the project is advancing to the next stages of development.

IV. DISCUSSION OF CHIA'S ANALYTIC AGENDA

Mr. Campbell proceeded to review with the Council CHIA's core functions and analytic agenda. He reminded the Council that he had distributed materials on CHIA's analytic agenda previously and had outlined the work that the agency regularly performs. Mr. Campbell then explained CHIA's data assets in greater detail and their respective functionality, also outlining which analytic categories CHIA's work falls into. Mr. Campbell emphasized to the Council that CHIA is not the sole state health care data hub in Massachusetts; several other state agencies have key data assets, in addition to the data that CHIA already houses.

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The Council discussed how other state agencies and stakeholders use CHIA's data, in particular the Health Policy Commission. Executive Director Seltz provided some examples and noted that over time CHIA's data collection has evolved to accommodate the HPC's analytic needs. The Council also discussed what types of flexibility the e-APCD may offer when it is complete to stakeholders and how that may impact CHIA's analytic priorities. Mr. Campbell noted that in the next Council meeting, he will discuss the prioritization of CHIA's analytic agenda further.

V. CLOSING

With no other business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 2:56 p.m.

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