

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

June 24, 2020

Council members present: Ms. Laura Adams; Mr. Rob Birmingham, Office of the State Auditor; Mr. Bill Geary; Mr. Eric Gold, Office of the Attorney General; Undersecretary 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.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Mr. Campbell called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Mr. Geary made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Adams. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Campbell welcomed everyone to CHIA's first remote Oversight Council meeting. He encouraged Council members to raise questions or comments at any time during the meeting. Mr. Campbell also introduced Mr. Puetthoff to the Council as the designee from the Massachusetts Division of Insurance.

Mr. Campbell provided CHIA's finance update. He noted that CHIA has been managing its spending very carefully, and is on track to meet spending projections for the fiscal year. Through the use of capital funding for eligible projects, CHIA will be able to make its next the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund transfer, and is working with the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to accommodate this need. At this time, very little is known about the Fiscal Year 2021 budget due to the uncertainties arising during the pandemic.

He then detailed CHIA's experience as the pandemic unfolded beginning in March. He noted that CHIA is honored and energized to contribute to the Commonwealth's official response to the pandemic. Mr. Campbell noted that the agency's transition to remote work proceeded better than expected. A brief discussion ensued on whether CHIA experienced any increased security risks in the transition to remote work, to which Mr. Campbell answered that there were no incidents.

The Council discussed CHIA's work during the pandemic and its role in assisting the Commonwealth's COVID-19 Command Center. Mr. Campbell noted that CHIA's data collection efforts are integral to both the real-time work of the Command Center as well as the future analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on Massachusetts' health care system. Mr. Campbell proceeded to outline CHIA's increased data collection efforts. CHIA is collecting monthly Case Mix data on a voluntary basis from over a dozen hospitals. CHIA is also continuing to collect hospital financial data at an increased frequency, where possible. Mr. Campbell noted that CHIA is delaying mandatory payer data submissions requirements in order to avoid imposing a burden on the health care system. CHIA is also collecting data from nursing facilities on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to assist with the coronavirus response. Mr. Campbell also noted that several CHIA staff are working full-time for the Command Center at this time, and additional staff are assisting as needed.

The Council considered the impact CHIA's data may have on COVID-19-related studies and where data may be particularly useful. Mr. Campbell cautioned that a lot of CHIA's data, in order to protect personally identifiable health information, does not include patient demographics which may limit its usefulness in some areas. The Council discussed possible additional areas where CHIA could assist with the pandemic relief efforts, such as studying health equity. The speed with which data from hospitals and nursing facilities may be collected and analyzed was also discussed and any limitations that currently exist to making the process faster.

Mr. Campbell then outlined to the Council CHIA's priorities during the pandemic. He explained that CHIA is continuing with its core operations, proceeding with the implementation of the e-APCD, and is performing substantial work for the Command Center. Mr. Campbell explained that the schedule for the

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implementation of the e-APCD has been extended by six months. He noted that the e-APCD will prove especially useful to stakeholders in the ongoing analysis of the pandemic.

He went on to reiterate that due to CHIA's efforts to mitigate the burden placed on health care payers, CHIA's *Annual Report on the Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System* will not be published in September 2020 and is instead expected to be released early in 2021.

Finally, Mr. Campbell explained that cutting APCD data extracts is especially difficult in a remote environment, but CHIA staff is ready to begin releasing the data to approved applicants. Case Mix, due to its smaller size, has not faced the same time delays.

The Council briefly discussed that there is some health care legislative before the Legislature that involves CHIA, but no definitive details yet.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Campbell concluded his presentation.

V. CLOSING

Mr. Geary made a motion to adjourn, which Ms. Adams seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.