

## **Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council September 25, 2019**

**Council members present:** Ms. Fay Donohue, Vice Chair; Mr. Rob Birmingham, Office of the State Auditor; Mr. Eric Gold, Office of the Attorney General; Ms. Iya Khalil; Undersecretary Lauren Peters, designee of Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Ms. Cassandra Roeder, designee of Secretary Michael Heffernan, Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Dr. Meredith Rosenthal; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; and Mr. Matthew Veno, designee of Commissioner Gary Anderson, Division of Insurance.

Noting the presence of a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

### **I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES [VOTE]**

Ms. Donohue, chairing the meeting, welcomed Ms. Cassandra Roeder, from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, to the Oversight Council. She then called for the approval of the previous meeting's minutes. Mr. Eric Gold made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, which Undersecretary Peters seconded; the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Campbell began by providing the Council with an update on CHIA's budget. He explained that CHIA's FY 2019 budget was balanced, and included the required \$10 million transfer to the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund. He noted that CHIA is still in the process of finalizing the FY 2020 budget but he expects the agency to be level funded. It was requested by the Council that budget materials be shared with the members.

Mr. Campbell then proceeded to provide an update on CHIA's 2019 *Annual Report on the Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System*, which originally was to be published in September 2019. He explained that CHIA determined that certain elements of the report required revisions, and the publication date had to be delayed to early October.

He then provided updates on CHIA's analytic endeavors, including its growing health care transparency initiatives. The Council then asked about the awareness level of CHIA's work in the health care industry. Mr. Campbell responded that the overall industry may not be particularly aware since the agency does not advertise its work other than through publications. A brief discussion ensued on raising awareness and particular projects that CHIA is working on that may be especially of interest. He also explained to the Council that CHIA anticipated two major health care bills from the state legislature that may impact CHIA's operations. The Council briefly discussed CHIA's potential future role in the pending health care legislation, and asked to be kept informed of any developments.

Mr. Campbell then asked that Mr. Andrew Jackmauh, CHIA's Chief of Staff, provide the Council with an update on the data transparency competition. Mr. Jackmauh then provided the Council with further details on the provider price variation challenge that CHIA is holding in partnership with the Mass eHealth Institute, Harvard Medical School, the Donaghue Foundation, and Freedman Healthcare. The goal of the competition is to create a more user-friendly tool to manipulate price data through an application or website. He explained that the data challenge was beginning in the next week with the winners to be chosen in December. The Council enquired after the overall purpose of the competition, and it was explained that CHIA wanted to primarily raise the profile of the publicly available transparency dataset. The Council also discussed details on the contents of the dataset and who had access.

### **III. APCD ENHANCEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Campbell then introduced Deb Schiel, Deputy Executive Director of Analytics, to provide the Council with an update on the APCD enhancement project. Ms. Schiel explained to the Council the current status of the project and the overall timeline. There was discussion on the current delayed project items and their impact to the larger schedule.

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Ms. Schiel walked the Council through the current accomplishments, as well as project requirements and anticipated difficulties. She also explained to the Council how CHIA was defining success and the measures being used. Ms. Schiel then concluded her discussion with identifying the current uses of the APCD data and their projected uses.

### **IV. Price Variation Study**

Mr. Campbell asked Dr. Rosenthal to present her recently published paper on price variation that utilized CHIA's data. Mr. Rosenthal explained the main findings of her paper to the Council, noting that it raises more questions to be answered. A discussion ensued on the overall findings and the utility of using CHIA's data.

### **V. CLOSING**

As the meeting was being concluded, Council members asked for additional information on any risks that CHIA data faces, including the possibility of data breaches. Ms. Donohue also outlined the action items for the next Council meeting, asking that CHIA share further information on its data privacy policies and data application log and process. Additionally, the Council would like updates on CHIA's analytic agenda, the provider price variation challenge, any relevant health care legislation, and the APCD enhancement project.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.