

# Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

## March 31, 2021

**Council members present:** Mr. Rob Birmingham, Office of the State Auditor; Ms. Fay Donohue; Mr. Bill Geary; Ms. Iya Khalil; 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; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; Ms. Sandra Wolitzky, Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Donohue called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Ms. Donohue welcomed Ms. Sandra Wolitzky as a new Council member from the Office of the Attorney General.

### I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2020 meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote; the minutes were unanimously approved.

### II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

After approval of prior meeting minutes, Ms. Donohue asked Mr. Campbell to make his executive director's report. Mr. Campbell began by providing a brief finance update and explained that CHIA's finances continue to be in good shape. He also noted that CHIA's statutorily required hearing on the fiscal year 2022 budget will be held in May.

Mr. Campbell then moved on to briefly remind the Council of the ongoing work being conducted supporting the state's COVID-19 Command Center. He noted that much of this work has continually been performed by CHIA since the beginning of the pandemic.

Mr. Campbell explained to the Council that the work on the e-APCD project is ongoing and that a larger presentation and discussion of the initiative will occur in the June Council meeting. A brief discussion followed, topics included the eventual rollout of the e-APCD, as well as the process for requesting extracts from the APCD while the projects is completed. It was also confirmed that CHIA will continue to release the APCD to applicants through the usual method in the meantime.

He then introduced Ms. Emma Schlitzer, CHIA's External Affairs Manager, to present on CHIA's recent and upcoming publications, as well as provide a legislative update. Ms. Schlitzer walked through the publications released in the past few months, including the *Annual Report on the Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System*. She also explained to the Council current legislation under consideration and bills recently enacted that impact CHIA. Notably, Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020 assigns several new roles to CHIA, including working as a collaborator on several studies covering COVID-19, telehealth, and out-of-network billing in addition to providing data for the analyses.

Mr. Campbell resumed his presentation and briefly discussed with the Council CHIA's analytic agenda. While providing examples of analytic priorities, he explained that he plans to use the June Council meeting to fully explore and discuss this topic with Council members.

### III. REVIEW FINDINGS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Upon concluding his Executive Director's report, Mr. Campbell introduced Ms. Lauren Coakley, Associate Manager, Ms. Lauren Makishima, Manager, and Ms. Lisa Ahlgren, Associate Manager, to present findings from CHIA's *Annual Report*. He explained to the Council that CHIA delayed payer data collection due to the pandemic, which led to a later publication date for the report. The presentation focused on health care expenditures in Massachusetts, commercial insurance spending, and quality of care, among other topics. Council members discussed the findings, and noted the analytic value of the report to understanding health care spending in Massachusetts.

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**IV. PRESENTATION ON OUT-OF-NETWORK BILLING FROM THE HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION**

Mr. Seltz opened a presentation on out-of-network billing in the Commonwealth recently conducted by the Health Policy Commission using data from CHIA. He introduced Ms. Yue Huang, Senior Research Associate at the Health Policy Commission, who presented key findings from the HPC study, including outlining for Council members the various ways out-of-network billing impacted Massachusetts residents and how often it was utilized. The Council discussed the importance of health care claims data to this research area, and how it is instrumental to understanding the payments moving between payers and providers.

**V. CLOSING**

Mr. Campbell then turned the meeting over to Ms. Donohue for closing. Ms. Donohue reminded the Council that CHIA intends to lead a discussion of the analytic agenda and provide an update and demonstration on the e-APCD project at the June meeting. The meeting concluded at 1:35 p.m.