

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

March 27, 2018

Council members present: Ms. Fay Donohue (Vice Chair); Ms. Lauren Peters, designee of Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Ms. Alicia B. Curran; Ms. Elizabeth Denniston, designee of Secretary Michael Heffernan, Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; Ms. Iya Khalil; Mr. Bill Geary; Ms. Laura Adams; Dr. Meredith Rosenthal; and Mr. Eric Gold, Office of the Attorney General.

Meeting was called to order by Ms. Fay Donohue at 9:34 a.m.

I. WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue welcomed Ms. Iya Khalil to the Oversight Council. She then solicited comments on the prior meeting's minutes. Hearing no objections, Mr. Geary made a motion to approve the minutes. Executive Director Seltz seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Donohue in reviewing the agenda asked that Mr. Campbell do the Finance Committee update and the Executive Director's Report prior to the intended discussion items; Mr. Campbell agreed with the suggestion. Mr. Campbell began the Finance Committee Update with walking the Council through CHIA's FY 2019 budget proposal. He noted that some of the budget is still uncertain due to the impending MA APCD procurement project. Ms. Lauren Peters added that she hoped CHIA would not be constrained in its MA APCD procurement due to budget concerns. Mr. Campbell concluded by stating that CHIA's budget is balanced and there are no notable concerns.

Mr. Campbell also reminded the Council that CHIA would be holding its FY 2019 budget hearing in a few days, and that it had been a quiet event for the past few years. Ms. Donohue called for any questions and seeing none, closed the Finance Committee Update.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

When beginning his Executive Director's Report, Mr. Campbell called for Steve McCabe, Deputy Executive Director of CHIA, to join him in presenting. Mr. Campbell started by noting that stakeholders often concentrate on CHIA's Case Mix and MA APCD datasets, while not always understanding the importance and utility of other type of data that the agency collects; specifically he wanted to highlight hospital financial data.

Mr. McCabe walked the Council through the types of hospital financial data CHIA collects. Mr. Campbell proceeded to highlight the most recent Annual Hospital Financial Performance Report. Mr. Campbell highlighted that CHIA for the first time in this report included data analysis on a larger swath of providers, including physician organizations, to more fully represent hospital and hospital financial system financial status. The Council asked questions about the data and a brief discussion ensued on the completeness of the hospital financial picture without the submission of independent physician organization data. Mr. Campbell then showed the Council the Hospital Profiles publication and the planned next steps for that publication series.

Mr. Campbell then proceeded to provide an update on the transparency agenda. He notified the Council that CHIA had received formal bids on the APCD RFR project, and that CHIA is satisfied with the caliber of the respondents. The Council discussed what the role of the members should be in the review of the APCD bids. Mr. Campbell explained that he was unsure how the members were allowed to participate in the process, but they could potentially contribute to the discussions as subject matter experts. The Council discussed the timeline of the RFR review process and asked to view the APCD RFR, which Mr. Campbell promised to circulate.

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Mr. Campbell briefly walked the Council through the senate health care bill, explaining that CHIA will do a more detailed cost analysis of the impact of the legislation once the senate and house reconcile their versions.

IV. TRANSPARENCY UPDATE

Mr. Campbell then moved to provide updates on CompareCare and “Big Transparency.” He explained that CHIA has held dozens of meetings with stakeholders to go over the CompareCare site. Mr. Campbell noted that a key takeaway of these meetings was that stakeholders did not want their customers confused, so the website was adjusted to include pop-ups with links to payer websites for members to get more specific information. He then proceeded to walk the Council through the website to demonstrate any major changes since it was last viewed. A discussion ensued on CHIA identifying specific, quantifiable metrics defining a successful website that then be used to report back to the Council. The Council members were concerned that CHIA was not defining success past a few qualitative metrics. Mr. Campbell noted that the plan was to quietly launch the website. The Council also debated how to define success in phase one of the website and how best to reach the public to gauge their interest.

Mr. Campbell proceeded to discuss Transparency 2.0. He explained that better metrics and data are needed, particularly to understand quality of care versus cost of care. The Council reviewed the types of information that could be included, such as ACO metrics and drug prices.

Ms. Donohue requested at the end of Mr. Campbell’s presentation that Mr. Campbell further define the differences between CompareCare and Big Transparency during the next Council meeting.

VI. CLOSING

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11.36 a.m.