

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

June 28, 2018

Council members present: 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; Mr. Bill Geary; Mr. Eric Gold, Office of the Attorney General; Ms. Iya Khalil; Dr. Meredith Rosenthal; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; and Matthew Veno, designee of Commissioner Gary Anderson, Division of Insurance.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Lauren Peters at 9:38 a.m.

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

Ms. Peters called for an approval of the prior meeting minutes. Mr. Seltz made the motion to approve the minutes, which Ms. Denniston seconded; the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Peters requested that Mr. Campbell provide the Oversight Council with a brief update from the prior meeting of the Finance Committee. Mr. Campbell shared with the Council the details of CHIA's FY 2019 budget.

Before proceeding further, Ms. Peters introduced a new member of the Council, Matthew Veno, who will be serving as the Division of Insurance's designee. She noted that Mr. Veno managed government affairs at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and was thus already familiar with CHIA's work.

III. CHIA'S TRANSPARENCY AGENDA

Before discussing CHIA's transparency agenda, Mr. Campbell provided a brief update on other matters. He noted that he is approaching two years as CHIA's executive director. He then walked the Council through ongoing and planned initiatives: investing in a cross-agency relationship with the Department of Public Health; the continued re-tooling of CHIA's IT platform and a goal to eventually move to a cloud-based system; implementation of the Data Science Institute for CHIA staff, which includes increasing staff training in Tableau and Excel; continued investments in the MA APCD; and the further development of CHIA's transparency agenda. Mr. Campbell emphasized that CHIA aims to be a national leader in health care transparency, and that no other state is as far along as Massachusetts in their efforts.

Mr. Campbell then moved to discuss CHIA's transparency agenda in more detail. He explained that Dr. Rosenthal had the opportunity to see the data behind CompareCare already, and asked her for any comments. She answered that she had combed through the data and was searching for patterns in price variation with some success. A brief discussion then ensued on the launch of CompareCare, and the plan to eventually advertise the site more aggressively.

The Council also discussed website engagement, and CHIA's use of Google Analytics to analyze user interaction. Ms. Peters asked whether CHIA had implemented a means for users to provide comments as had been previously discussed; Mr. Campbell answered in the affirmative, indicating that the website had the capability since launch. Mr. Campbell also explained that CHIA is planning a Data Science Competition using the data behind CompareCare. While the details of the competition are still in development, the hope is that the results of the competition will inform future improvements to CompareCare.

Mr. Campbell then walked the Council through future transparency goals, including expanding the procedures available in the dataset and developing new metrics, including procedure volume counts. He added that data will continue to be added to the website in the next few years. He also noted that the goal

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is to move toward payer-specific data rather than multi-payer weighted averages. A brief discussion then ensued regarding the important inclusion of pharmacy claims data.

IV. HOUSE HEALTH CARE BILL

Mr. Campbell proceeded to provide an update on the recently passed health care legislation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He asked Mr. Seltz to briefly summarize the bill. Mr. Seltz gave some background on health care bill released in the senate and house, respectively, noting that the two bills are now in conference committee to reconcile their differences and be voted on by July 31. He also noted that the two bills approach addressing Massachusetts health care issues differently, but there are some notable similarities, including scope of practice reform, quality alignment, and addressing provider price variation. Mr. Campbell explained that greater details would be forthcoming once a final bill was produced out of conference committee. He also emphasized that both the senate and house bills showed that CHIA was viewed as an integral partner in addressing the Commonwealth's health care issues. The Council then briefly discussed particular components of the house bill, and also noted that both bills bring pharmacy benefit manager and pharmacy data into the health care debate, just like hospital and payer data. Ms. Peters asked that CHIA provide the Council with updates on the status and cost implications of the pending health care legislation.

Before concluding the Oversight Council, Mr. Seltz asked for the status of CHIA's ongoing MA APCD RFR process. Mr. Campbell explained that CHIA has taken a disciplined approach to reviewing RFR responses. The next steps are to hold oral presentations at the end of September.

VI. CLOSING

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.