

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

December 6, 2021

Council members present: Ms. Laura Adams; Mr. Rob Birmingham, Office of the State Auditor; Ms. Fay Donohue; 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; and Ms. Sandra Wolitzky, Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Donohue called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote; the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Donohue turned the meeting over to Mr. Campbell to begin his Executive Director's report. Mr. Campbell opened his presentation by providing an update on CHIA's finances. He showed the breakdown of CHIA's expenses between FY 2016, a year prior to the start of the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund payments, and FY 2022, the year after the payments ended. The spending remains largely consistent between the two years. The Council discussed the current fiscal year's budget process, and Mr. Campbell explained that CHIA is waiting to hear Governor Baker's budget proposal.

Mr. Campbell contextualized CHIA's budget within the Commonwealth's larger health care policy community and provided detail on CHIA's assessment contributors and the proportion of CHIA's assessment they paid.

He then provided a brief update on development of the enhanced Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database (APCD), noting that it is nearing completion after four years of work. Mr. Campbell explained that the next step is shifting to widespread adoption of the e-APCD among CHIA staff. The Council briefly discussed in more detail the roll-out of the e-APCD.

Ms. Emma Schlitzer, External Affairs Manager, provided an update to the Council on recent legislative developments and CHIA's recent and upcoming publications. The Council discussed briefly the Continuous Skilled Nursing study currently in development.

III. ENHANCED MASSACHUSETTS ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE (E-APCD) UPDATE

Mr. Campbell then introduced Mr. Greg Wheeler, Director of Health Informatics and Reporting, and Ms. Shirley Wong, Client Services Product Manager of Data Operations and Technology, to walk the Council through an expanded e-APCD project update. Mr. Wheeler opened the presentation by explaining the project timeline, including highlighting upcoming project milestones such as user credentialing and training. He summarized for the Council the enhancements to the MA APCD as well as its data sources before turning the presentation over to Ms. Wong. She described in greater detail to the Council the previous limitations of using the MA APCD. She proceeded to explain how the dataset will be accessed going forward through a virtual desktop solution. Ms. Wong provided some examples of data reports she was able to build using the e-APCD through a much more streamlined and easier process than would have been possible prior to the data enhancements.

The Council had questions regarding the data in the e-APCD, including where it is housed and how users will access the data. Ms. Wong explained that the data is housed on IBM data servers which CHIA feeds to them regularly, which users can access through the virtual desktop. Executive Director Seltz shared with the Council the Health Policy Commission's excitement to use the e-APCD when it is fully functional.

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IV. DISCUSSION OF 2021-2023 ANALYTIC AGENDA

Mr. Campbell moved on to discussing CHIA's 2021-2023 analytic agenda. He walked through CHIA's major data assets, which were reviewed in more detail at the previous Council meeting. Mr. Campbell then outlined major agency analytic activities as well as identified priorities. He provided some examples of priorities, including measuring and reporting on primary care and behavioral health expenditures and developing improved measures for understanding hospital spending. The Council asked about CHIA's health care transparency efforts and what was currently in development.

Mr. Campbell concluded his discussion by stating that he would continue to present to the Council on new analytic priorities for the agency in upcoming meetings.

V. CLOSING

With no other business to discuss, the Ms. Donohue sought to adjourn the meeting; the meeting concluded at 3:40 p.m.