

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

January 25, 2024

Council members present: Ms. Laura Adams; Ms. Coleen Elstermeyer, designee of Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; Mr. Brent Benson, Office of the State Auditor; Ms. Fay Donohue; Dr. Adrianna McIntyre; Mr. Niels Puetthoff, designee of Commissioner Gary Anderson, Division of Insurance; Ms. Cassandra Roeder, designee of Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz, Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Ms. Karen Tseng, designee of Secretary Kate Walsh, Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Ms. Sandra Wolitzky, Office of the Attorney General; and Ms. Jean Yang.

Ms. Donohue called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue started the meeting welcoming Ms. Karen Tseng, designee of Secretary Kate Walsh of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Ms. Laura Adams also announced that she would be leaving the Oversight Council after this meeting. Ms. Donohue next called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2023, meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote; the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. HEALTH EQUITY 5-POINT PLAN

Ms. Peters briefly introduced the next agenda item. Ms. Haley Farrar-Muir, Senior Manager of CHIA's Research Team, presented to Council members a detailed update on CHIA's five-point equity plan. She walked through the agency's plan, which includes incorporating an equity lens into existing CHIA analyses and metrics; developing new data streams for collecting demographic data from payers and providers; prioritizing new research and reporting in the identified equity areas for greater impact and utility; implementing new communications standards to amplify the impact and utility of CHIA's reporting and publications; and providing data and analytic support for ongoing health equity efforts.

The Council was enthusiastic in its support for CHIA's equity plan. Council members discussed the plan to prioritize collecting demographic data from Massachusetts payers and the importance of coordinating data collection standards and procedures with other state agencies to avoid conflicts and redundancies. The Council also briefly discussed in greater detail how best CHIA can release and publish reports and analyses using this data.

III. OTHER CHIA PRIORITY AREAS

Ms. Peters then provided brief updates on the Primary Care Dashboard and the publication of the Health Care Workforce Survey results. She noted that the Primary Care Dashboard and initial results from the survey will be published in the spring. Council members continued to be interested in the release of these two publications.

IV. CHIA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Andrew Jackmauh, CHIA's Chief of Staff, then walked the Council through the implementation of the agency's strategic plan. Mr. Jackmauh began by recapping strategic planning efforts to date: executive staff worked to develop a plan with four primary goals, each with nested objectives; the Council provided feedback that was incorporated into the plan; and a list of 60 tactics was developed to guide implementation of the plan. The group discussed progress on each of the four goals. CHIA sought Council feedback in two areas, including the agency's communications plan and the usability and accessibility of existing datasets. There was some discussion on how to effectively convey CHIA's brand. Council members also considered the merits and potential drawbacks of CHIA being more visible in policy discussions. The Council also reviewed how best CHIA can leverage and use artificial intelligence in its work.

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council January 25, 2024

Mr. Jackmauh closed his presentation with a brief explanation of the next steps in the strategic plan implementation. The first phase of the strategic plan is expected to conclude at the end of 2024, when CHIA will meet with the Council again to get their feedback on how best to approach the next phase.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

To conclude the meeting, Ms. Peters provided brief updates on the MassHealth EHRD implementation as well as the eAPCD. Ms. Emma McNamara, Deputy Chief of Staff, then walked through legislative and budget updates, noting that Governor Healey had just released her FY 2025 budget recommendations.

Ms. Peters closed the meeting by highlighting for the Council recent CHIA publications and some upcoming projects.

VI. CLOSING

With no other business to discuss, Ms. Donohue sought to adjourn the meeting; the meeting concluded at 11:58 a.m.