



Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council Administration & Finance Committee

Executive Office for Administration and Finance
State House Room 373, Boston, MA
September 13, 2016 9:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 9:13 a.m.

Present were Lauren Peters (designee of Secretary Kristen Lepore), Undersecretary Alice Moore (designee of Secretary Marylou Sudders), Health Policy Commission Executive Director David Seltz, Fay Donohue, and CHIA Executive Director Ray Campbell.

Ms. Peters requested a motion to approve the Committee's meeting minutes from June 13. Undersecretary Moore moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Donohue duly seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Ms. Peters invited Mr. Campbell to present budget recommendations that facilitate a \$5 million transfer in funds to the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund in FY17. Mr. Campbell explained that in developing these recommendations, he prioritized identifying efficiencies that could be found without a major loss in capacity. He explained that, depending on the guidance received from the Committee and the Council-as-a-whole, the agency would either refine and enact this plan or reexamine its operations and cost structure to identify additional options.

Mr. Campbell added that the \$10 million transfer in FY18 was expected to require additional decisions about the agency's strategic priorities. He stated that CHIA would be working with Accenture through October to develop a set of recommendations for FY18 and beyond. Undersecretary Moore requested that the Council have the opportunity to meet with the Accenture team to discuss their process and final recommendations.

Mr. Campbell then walked the Committee through his FY17 budget recommendations, allowing for questions and discussion throughout.

Ms. Donohue asked whether CHIA planned to replace two senior level managers who had recently left the agency. Mr. Campbell stated that there were currently no plans to backfill either position, but that he would make a further assessment based on the results of the Accenture engagement. Ms. Donohue expressed that she felt it was important to ensure that CHIA had the appropriate staff to meet its strategic objectives.

Mr. Seltz explained that work in the area of health care quality was a priority to the Health Policy Commission. He added that, while he understood the need to pause additional work in this area in the context of CHIA's reduced budget, he was hopeful that this was an area that CHIA would consider revisiting in the future.

Ms. Donohue requested additional details on CHIA's transparency website, including what information would be included on the site, the intended audience, and how it will be used. A brief discussion followed.

Undersecretary Moore asked Mr. Campbell to confirm how many mandated benefit reviews CHIA would be able to complete each year under the proposed budget. Mr. Campbell responded that, due to fluctuations in the costs associated with the review of these bills, there was a likely range. Based on the number of mandated benefit bills referred to CHIA in the past, he added that it was his expectation that the proposed budget would be sufficient to absorb this work.

Ms. Donohue requested that Mr. Campbell ensure that future budget materials are consistent with previously prepared materials, allowing for an understanding of changes over time. She also requested that materials not rely so heavily on acronyms.

Ms. Peters requested a motion to approve the FY17 budget for submission to the full Council. Mr. Seltz so moved. Undersecretary Moore duly seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the budget for submission to the Council.

A motion to adjourn was made by Undersecretary Moore and seconded by Ms. Donohue.