

**Minutes from the Health Information and Analysis  
Oversight Council Meeting  
December 11, 2024**

**Council members present:** Mr. Niels Puetthoff, designee of Commissioner Mike Caljouw, Division of Insurance; Mr. Brent Benson; Ms. Fay Donohue; Ms. Dana Sullivan, designee of Secretary Matthew Gorkowicz, Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Ms. Adrianna McIntyre; Mr. Alan Sager; Ms. Eliza Lake, 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 2:04 p.m.

**I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES [VOTE]**

Ms. Donohue opened the meeting and thanked the Council members for joining.

Ms. Donohue next called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2024, meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote; the minutes were unanimously approved.

**II. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

Executive Director Lauren Peters invited CHIA's Chief of Staff, Andrew Jackmauh, to provide an overview of strategic planning efforts to date and review CHIA's proposed plans and updates to our analytic priority areas, including Council member feedback from the September 17 meeting.

Mr. Jackmauh first provided an update on the Health Equity priority area, reminding members of the five-point equity plan and the goals to improve reporting by building on existing work and identifying new areas of opportunity. He also highlighted that CHIA is developing a new static dashboard publication that will focus on equity measures. Mr. Puetthoff asked some questions regarding the type of data that will be included in the new reporting, and Ms. Wolitzky inquired how much CHIA is coordinating with outside agencies and organizations with its work.

Next, Council members received an update on CHIA's work to quantify health and human service workforce issues, including through the Massachusetts Health Care and Human Service Workforce Survey (MHCW). He noted that CHIA is planning to deploy the survey in the first quarter of 2025 and publish results later in the calendar year. Council members walked through the workforce problems facing the nursing home sector, and whether CHIA has data on the current shortfall of staff and what remedies to pursue to address the issue. Ms. Peters noted that CHIA has some of this data, but the agency's aim is to share its information with policymakers rather than prescribe solutions. Ms. Yang called out the importance of measuring the impact of contract staff on the quality of care and services.

Mr. Jackmauh then moved on to reviewing CHIA's primary care efforts. He reminded the Council of CHIA's current efforts in this area, including the annual release of a primary care dashboard, as well as a report on primary care spending. Mr. Jackmauh noted that going forward the MHCW survey will also include data from primary care practices. He walked through the feedback that CHIA had received previously from the Council, including reporting on primary care workforce supply versus demand, among others. Ms. Lake asked for detail around the availability of data in this area, such as whether regional analysis of primary care access is an option to explore geographic equity, and the impact of primary care providers moving into concierge practices. Mr. Sager also asked that CHIA provide a summary of the various sources of information on primary care, specifically on the number of providers, number of primary care visits per year, payer mix, measures of capacity, and responsiveness, including number of providers accepting new patients, well visit waitlists and time to appointment, and responsiveness. Ms. Peters agreed to share as much information as possible before the next Council meeting.

Council members then received a brief update on CHIA's behavioral health work. Mr. Jackmauh walked through CHIA's work related to behavioral health, noting that the efforts are similar to the primary care analytical work. Ms. Yang raised the issue of exploring the quality of behavioral health care in addition to

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studying access. Mr. Sager and Dr. McIntyre explored the payer mix of behavioral health providers, as well as the availability of age stratification in the data.

The Council next heard updates on Access and Affordability. Mr. Jackmauh explained that based on Council feedback CHIA will be including new questions on underinsurance and the administrative barriers to care to the 2025 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey (MHIS), in addition to measures on the use of Health Savings Accounts and Health Reimbursement Accounts to pay for medical expenses. CHIA is also looking into the impact of new prescription drugs coming to market. Mr. Jackmauh noted that the CHIA's 2025 Annual Report will include an expanded chapter on access and affordability. He concluded by stating that CHIA will continue to work with sister agencies to develop new affordability metrics and assist in other initiatives. Mr. Sager discussed the importance of creating a detailed inventory of data availability around access and affordability on CHIA's website with internal and external links. Ms. Peters agreed that an inventory would be helpful and said that it could be part of CHIA's website redesign.

To conclude the strategic planning update, Mr. Jackmauh updated the Council on CHIA's provider financial transparency efforts. He explained that CHIA has recently consolidated hospitals' and health systems' key financial and utilization metrics into a single interactive dashboard. CHIA is also preparing to launch its first nursing facility transparency dashboard. Mr. Jackmauh also stated that CHIA will support the Department of Public Health and other sister agencies in the implementation of a recently passed long term care bill. Ms. Lake explored the importance of linking nursing facility financial status with workforce data, which CHIA explained is already being done where possible

Ms. Donohue then introduced the next agenda topic.

**III. NURSING FACILITY TRANSPARENCY**

Next on the agenda was an update on CHIA's Nursing Facility Transparency initiative. Liz Almanzor, Director of Provider Finance, reminded the Council of the plan to publish in January 2025 an interactive dashboard intended to primarily assist policymakers accessing and understanding performance—including both financial and quality metrics—for individual nursing facilities and the broader industry. She noted that the dashboard leverages data from the skilled nursing facility cost reports filed with CHIA annually and other publicly available data. Ms. Almanzor then walked the Council through sample slides of the dashboard to show the types of metrics being included. Mr. Sager asked that CHIA compile a list of the number of nursing homes, licensed beds, occupancy rate, and average daily census for the last 10 years statewide. In the brief discussion that followed, Ms. Peters stated that the Nursing Facility Taskforce completed the proposed inventory already, and that the report can be shared. She also noted that the Department of Public Health and MassHealth collects this data, rather than CHIA.

**IV. THCE VS. SHEA CALCULATIONS**

Molly Bailey, Manager of Health Informatics and Reporting, was then introduced to present on the Total Health Care Expenditures (THCE) metric and the State Health Expenditures Account (SHEA) metric. She defined the THCE measure and noted CHIA's annual calculation of total health care spending by Massachusetts residents. The data is sourced from the direct annual submission of spending data from private and public payers. Conversely, the SHEA is calculated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) every five years for the purpose of cross-state comparisons. The SHEA is calculated using estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Census and industry surveys, with supplemental claims and budget data from public programs.

Ms. Bailey noted that in 2014 CHIA published a technical note outlining the differences between THCE and SHEA for calendar year 2012 expenditures and found that the SHEA amount was higher than the THCE amount after excluding the net cost of private health insurance for comparison purposes. Mr. Sager noted that the quick reference calculations of THCE versus SHEA are greater now than in 2012. Mr. Sager also raised that the statutory definition of THCE does not fully capture actual total health care

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spending in the Commonwealth and suggested that CHIA make this clearer in its reporting. The Council agreed that CHIA should explore whether the gap has widened between THCE and SHEA calculations since the 2014 analysis. Ms. Peters committed to updating CHIA's analysis comparing THCE and SHEA, once the federal government releases updated data in 2025.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

As the final agenda item, Ms. Peters gave her Executive Director's Report. She was happy to announce that CHIA was able to sign another 10-year office lease. Ms. Peters then walked the Council through a brief budget update, noting that the agency was working to develop its FY 2026 budget submission. She also provided a legislative update, noting a recently passed long-term care bill that directs CHIA to work with the Department of Public Health to examine and report on the financial performance of skilled nursing facilities; additionally, Ms. Peters indicated there are still a couple bills pending in the Legislature that may impact CHIA.

Ms. Peters then briefly updated the Council on the eAPCD project, stating that the project is largely on track despite some delays due to staffing constraints. She concluded by walking through recently passed publications and highlighting some upcoming reports that are planned for the coming months.

Mr. Sager called for a motion to acknowledge the work of CHIA and congratulate Ms. Peters and the entire CHIA team for doing a terrific job.

**VI. CLOSING**

With no other business to discuss, Ms. Donohue sought to adjourn the meeting; the meeting concluded at 3:54 p.m.