

Minutes of the Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council

March 20, 2024

Council members present: 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; Mr. Alan Sager; Executive Director David Seltz, Health Policy Commission; 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 2:02 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTE [VOTE]

Ms. Donohue opened the meeting by welcoming Mr. Alan Sager, appointed by the Office of the State Auditor. Ms. Cassandra Roeder also announced that she will be stepping down from the Council as the designee for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

Ms. Donohue next called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2024, meeting, which was followed by a formal roll call vote; the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Peters began her Executive Director's Report by giving a brief legislative update, including that CHIA is responsible for performing a mandated benefit review at the request of the Legislature and one is currently in development. She briefly noted that CHIA recently testified at a Joint Committee on Ways and Means budget hearing and will hold its own budget hearing in mid-April. Ms. Peters concluded her presentation by providing a short overview and history of CHIA's involvement with Steward Health Care system.

III. ANNUAL REPORT KEY FINDINGS

Ms. Peters next introduced the recently released Annual Report on the Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System. She provided brief background information on the report, then welcomed Ms. Molly Bailey, Associated Manager, to present a selection of key findings from the report. Council members expressed their appreciation for CHIA's work and the value of the report to health care policy discussions in Massachusetts.

IV. CHIA PRIORITY AREAS

Ms. Donohue asked Ms. Peters to introduce CHIA's priority areas before the Council received a detailed presentation on an upcoming Behavioral Health Dashboard. Ms. Peters explained that CHIA seeks to provide updates and solicit feedback on priority analytic areas, with the goal of doing a fuller presentation on each initiative at every meeting. She then introduced Ms. Erin Bonney, Director, to provide a detailed presentation and update on the Behavioral Health Dashboard.

Ms. Bonney explained that CHIA's goal was to expand on behavioral health data shared in the Annual Report and complement the existing Primary Care Dashboard publication. She outlined the six focus areas of the planned Behavioral Health Dashboard, including access, workforce, finance, utilization, quality, and equity. Ms. Bonney then provided a brief overview of each domain as well as the planned measures for inclusion. She walked through several discussion areas or questions that CHIA had for the Council, including soliciting feedback on the measures being included as well as what may be included in the future.

The Council expressed strong support for this new dashboard and held a detailed discussion on measures that would be valuable to include in future publication iterations. Members also discussed the

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options for releasing the dashboard, including a static PDF report and an interactive dashboard posted to CHIA's website.

Ms. Bonney next gave a brief update on the Primary Care Dashboard publication. She noted that CHIA is refreshing the data used in the January 2023 dashboard featuring many of the same data metrics. Publication is planned for May 2024.

Ms. Peters quickly walked through the ongoing work on the Health Care Workforce Survey. She explained that fielding for the survey concluded in January, with the goal of publishing sector-specific results on a rolling basis between March and April followed by a statewide cross-sector analysis in May. Ms. Peters added that CHIA has promised to work with health care providers to receive feedback on the survey and to share results.

Finally, Ms. Peters quickly updated the Council on CHIA's equity work. She then invited Ms. Karen Tseng, Secretary Walsh's designee, to present on the Advancing Health Equity in Massachusetts initiative.

V. eAPCD

Ms. Peters shared with the Council updates on the eAPCD project. For the benefit of newer Council members, she briefly provided some background on the eAPCD and outlined its three main goals, which is to increase accessibility, analytic capacity, and the utility of the resource. She noted that CHIA finished the first phase of the project and was moving onto the second operational phase. Ms. Peters explained that CHIA had ultimately decided during contract negotiations to not renew with the current eAPCD vendor, and instead bring operations in-house.

Ms. Peters invited Mr. Mike Cocchi, Chief Data Officer, to explain in more detail the decision to bring eAPCD operations in-house and CHIA's confidence in the plan. The Council was supportive of CHIA's approach and briefly discussed next steps.

VI. CLOSING

With no other business to discuss, Ms. Donohue sought to adjourn the meeting; the meeting concluded at 3:53 p.m.