

Office of Health Strategy
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE

BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE:

Commissioner Deidre Gifford	Ellen Andrews	Danielle Morgan
Robyn Anderson	Claudio Gualtieri	Cassandra Murphy
Dr. James Cardon	Michael Williams	DC Collen Harrington
Kurt Barwis	Commissioner Manisha Juthani	Hassam Saada
Tiffany Donelson	Dr. Alan Kaye	Dr. Anthony Yoder
Dr. Mehul Dalal	Kathy Holt	

IN PERSON:

N/A

ABSENT:

Tiffany Donelson	Shelley Ann Stokes Sweatt	Paul Lombardo
Commissioner Jordan Scheff	Joanne Borduas	
Laura Manzione	James Michel	

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Elisa Neira, OHS	Cindy Dubuque-Gallo, OHS	Bozena Piascik, OHS
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WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Healthcare Cabinet was held Tuesday, November 19, 2024, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Deidre Gifford at 2:04 p.m. Attendance was taken by roll call and quorum was reached.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, MINUTES

The motion was made to approve the September 24, 2024, minutes by Kurt Barwis and second by Claudio Gualtieri. Motion carried with 12 members voting in favor. Kathy Holt abstained.

AHEAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATUS

Elisa Niera, Senior Director, provided the members of the Healthcare Cabinet with an update on the AHEAD project. She explained that they have been holding informational sessions with various stakeholders and partners. Elisa thanked everyone for their recommendations for the advisory board, and she hopes to hold a vote via a special meeting in early December.

APM REPORT OVERVIEW

Commissioner Deidre Gifford presented a report that was published on Alternative Payment Model implementation in CT pursuant to C.G.S. 19a–754a, revealing that about 45% of healthcare payments are in a straight fee-for-service model, 11% are in a fee-for-service model linked to quality, and over 40% are in category 3, which involves healthcare payments in ACOs linked to fee-for-service architecture. The report also showed that over 40% of covered lives and commercial coverage in Connecticut are under an accountable care arrangement. Commissioner Gifford acknowledged that the report could be improved by including more qualitative data and feedback from the provider community. Dr. James Cardon and Ellen Andrews suggested that the report could be enhanced by asking more general questions about the future of ACOs and the challenges faced by providers in managing data for these models. A comprehensive Q&A followed the presentation.

To view the presentation, please start at the 15:26 mark in the recording. The link is provided at the beginning of this document.

Next steps:

- HS to enhance the APM report by including qualitative context and provider perspectives on APM implementation challenges and support needs.
- OHS to explore the option of a provider survey to identify gaps in data and support for successful APM participation

OHS 2024 HEALTH CARE BENCHMARK INITIATIVE (HCBI) LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Commissioner Deidre Gifford introduced Cindy Dubuque-Gallo, the Legislative Liaison at OHS, who provided a summary of the recommendations, which included stronger accountabilities for entities called to participate in the annual public hearing, improved drug rebate data collection, and the establishment of a prescription drug affordability board. The group also discussed the need for better oversight of healthcare entity transfers and consolidations, and the potential for implementing affordability measures in other states. There were concerns raised about the use of performance improvement plans (PIPs) and the need for more transparency in the data shared. The conversation ended with a discussion on reducing administrative burdens for primary care.

To view the presentation, please start at the 36:36 mark in the recording. The link is provided at the beginning of this document.

Next steps:

- OHS to examine how Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) are used in other states and consider adopting them in Connecticut, while addressing stakeholder concerns.
- OHS to launch web pages with dynamic dashboards providing transparent methodologies and data on healthcare cost drivers.

FACILITY FEES PRESENTATION

Bozena Piascik, an Associate Healthcare Analyst at OHS, presented an analysis of outpatient facility fees for the current year 2019 to 2023. She highlighted that most facility fees were for on-campus services, with off-campus services accounting for roughly 30% of the net revenue and 44% of visits. Bozena also noted that the top three procedure categories by net revenue were cardiovascular, diagnostic digestive system,

and muscular surgical procedures. She further discussed the changes in legislation regarding facility fees, particularly the prohibition of charging facility fees for evaluation and management services on hospital campuses, with exceptions for freestanding emergency departments and observation stays. Commissioner Gifford expressed interest in the implications of the data and the effectiveness of the legislation in achieving its intended goals.

To view the presentation, please start at the 59:40 mark in the recording. The link is provided at the beginning of this document.

Next Steps:

OHS to analyze the impact of facility fee regulations and assess if legislative goals are being achieved, given the continued increase in facility fees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Ellen Andrews and seconded by Dr. Anthony Yoder. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

**In accordance with FOIA requirements re: meetings held by solely by electronic-means (remote) R= attended remotely, IP= attended in person, X= unable to attend*

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 28, 2025 | March 25, 2025