

Office of Health Strategy
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2024 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Passcode: p8qi+FL4

ATTENDANCE

BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE:

Robyn Anderson	Dr. Alan Kaye	DC Collen Harrington
Dr. James Cardon	Sean King	Hassam Saada
Paul Lombardo	Danielle Morgan	
Commissioner Manisha Juthani	Shelley Ann Stokes Sweatt	

IN PERSON:

Commissioner Deidre Gifford	Claudio Gualtieri	Dr. Anthony Yoder
Ellen Andrews	Dr. Nicole Taylor	
Dr. Mehul Dalal	Cassandra Murphy	
Tiffany Donelson	Laura Manzione	

ABSENT:

Kurt Barwis	Joanne Borduas
Commissioner Jordan Scheff	James Michel
Dr. Alan Kaye	

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Elisa Neira, OHS	Vidya Gansen, DPH
Lita Orefice, DPH	Stephen McCall, Altarum

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Healthcare Cabinet was held Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at the Legislative Office Building. 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 MAY 24, 2024, AND JULY 23, 2024, MINUTES

The motion was made to approve the May 24, 2024, and July 23, 2024 by Ellen Andrews and second by Claudio Gualtieri. Motion carried with all members voting in favor. Dr. James Cardon abstained.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS

Commissioner Gifford introduced two new cabinets members, Dr. James Cardon CEO, Integrated Care Partners for Hartford Healthcare and Tiffany Donelson, CEO for the CT Health Foundation.

STATEWIDE FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN ADDENDUM REPORT

Commissioner Gifford introduced the Statewide Facilities and Services Plan Addendum Report, which is open for public comment until the end of the week (October 4, 2024). This report is the second part of the plan and will serve as the state's State Health Improvement Plan.

Commissioner Manisha Juthani spoke about the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), which aims to improve statewide population health and involves many stakeholders beyond the state health department. She mentioned their accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and the ongoing reaccreditation process.

Commissioner Juthani emphasized the importance of collaboration with various sectors and the role of the healthcare cabinet in shaping SHIP to meet accreditation criteria and broader health goals. She believes that moving SHIP oversight to the healthcare cabinet within the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) will enhance its effectiveness. SHIP must meet PHAB criteria, including identifying health priorities, improvement strategies, responsible organizations, and addressing health inequities. Progress will be tracked and revised through collaboration, with the healthcare cabinet providing necessary input and oversight.

She emphasizes the need to include social determinants of health in planning. The Department of Public Health (DPH) will maintain an updated State Health Assessment (SHA) instead of a static five-year report. DPH is creating a live dashboard for more frequent and accessible health data to better inform the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). This partnership aims to make SHIP more effective and sustainable. Lita Orefice, Chief of Staff at DPH, and other staff were available for questions.

Commissioner Gifford introduced Stephen McCall who presented the CT Statewide Facilities and Services Plan (FSP) addendum Report presentation.

The agenda consisted of the following:

- Project Goals and Overview
- Section 1: Social Determinants of Health
- Section 2: Access and Affordability
- Section 3: Health Outcomes
- Q&A and Closing

To view the presentation, please start at the 18:23 mark in the recording. The link is provided at the beginning of this document. A comprehensive Q&A session followed the presentation

AHEAD DEMONSTRATION UPDATE

Commissioner Gifford introduced Elisa Neira and Dr. Mehul Dalal who provided the cabinet with an AHEAD Demonstration update. Elisa thanked the members of the Cabinet for their recommendations and sharing information within their networks. A total of 35 nominations from across different stakeholders were obtained, Dr. Dalal and Elisa will be reviewing the recommendations soon to be able to establish an advisory board within the next few months as this is critical for the development of the AHEAD grant. She further stated that they are working closely with the federal government who is actively providing technical assistance resources to the State. In the coming months OHS and DSS will be establishing

informational sessions and/or webinars series to engage stakeholders. Commissioner Gifford added that the start date for the demonstrations is not until January 1, 2027, which allows time to have the essential conversations to make the plans and give time for providers to understand the impact of the payment model, potential impact on the payment model and decide whether they want to participate. Tiffany Donelson asked if there were any gaps in the nominations. Elisa replied that any suggestions for consumers would be appreciated. There are a good number of nominations or community-based organization and healthcare providers. Nominations are still being accepted as soon as possible but DSS and OHS are committed to getting this right so taking the time to ensure that they get diverse voices on the body are very important.

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 3:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024, 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:

November 19, 2024 | January 28, 2025