

Health Care Cost Transparency Board meeting minutes

April 20, 2022
Health Care Authority
Meeting held electronically (Zoom) and telephonically
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Note: this meeting was video recorded in its entirety. The recording and all materials provided to and considered by the board is available on the [Health Care Cost Transparency Board webpage](#).

Members present

Sue Birch, chair
Bianca Frogner
Carol Wilmes
Edwin Wong
Jodi Joyce
John Doyle
Kim Wallace
Lois Cook
Margaret Stanley
Molly Nollette
Pam MacEwan
Sonja Kellen

Call to order

Sue Birch, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Agenda items

Welcoming remarks

Ms. Birch welcomed the members.

Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved.

Recap of March Board meeting

In March, members heard feedback from both advisory committees the plan for cost driver analyses, and possible consequences to cost growth reduction efforts. They also reviewed data on spending growth in Washington, including an analysis of trends in the commercial market created by OnPoint at the request of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Based on the data presented, the Board expressed interest in learning more about the impact on cost growth of hospital spending, pharmacy spending, and the impact of shifting care from in patient to out- patient settings.



Advisory Committee feedback on impacts on criteria and strategies to support benchmark attainment

AnnaLisa Gellermann, HCA staff

Ms. Gellermann presented the Board with feedback from the Advisory Committee of Health Care Providers and Issuers on the criteria it approved for selecting strategies to support benchmark attainment. The criteria adopted by the Board were:

- Implementation of the strategy is likely to have a substantive impact on cost growth benchmark attainment.
 - Evidence supports the strategy, or if not, there is a compelling logic model for the strategy.
- The strategy is actionable for the state, payers, or provider organizations
 - Approval from federal partners is not required to implement the strategy, or there is a high likelihood of obtaining required approval.
- Relevant stakeholders have the capacity to design and execute the strategy thoughtfully and successfully.

The committee strongly recommended inclusion of a criterion related to access. Their concern was that consideration of decreasing services and access to services, especially among vulnerable and rural populations, is a vital consideration to the delivery system. The Board agreed that access was an important factor and that it would form an important factor in their consideration. Some Board members acknowledged the challenge in measuring the impact on access from one specific policy intervention. Staff was directed to draft language for the Board's future consideration.

The committee also reviewed the three areas identified by the Board for deeper educational dives: Market consolidation, hospital pricing strategies, and value-based payment. Members of the committee shared suggestions for finding high value targets, but no specific alternative topics were recommended.

2022 Legislative Session recap

Evan Klein, Special Assistant for Policy and Legislative Affairs
Health Care Authority

Mr. Klein presented the Board with a recap of the 2022 Legislative session, focused on health, and cost related legislation that had been introduced and/or passed during the session. The presentation included an overview of the new primary care target statute charging the Board with development of a 12% target state-wide.

Introduction to primary care expenditures

Emily Transue, Associate Medical Director
Health Care Authority

Ms. Transue provided the Board with an introductory overview of primary care in Washington, including ongoing work with stakeholders to develop a primary care definition and support and incentivize primary care providers. She reviewed Rhode Island's experience with a primary care target, and shared analytics from that state demonstrating that increased primary care spend reduced overall health care spending.



Public comment

Ms. Birch called for comments from the public. There were no comments.

Key issues in defining and measuring primary care spend

January Angeles, Bailit Health

January Angeles of Bailit Health presented the Board with information from other states with primary care targets, and the key issues in measuring primary care spend. The major issues are identifying the data source (whether relying on claims-based spending alone or seeking other direct payments), defining primary care (including the provider and treatment types), and what to include in calculating the total spend (e.g., non-claims-based spending).

Ms. Angeles shared an overview of different state approaches.

Value based purchasing

JD Fischer, Project Manager Value Based Purchasing
Health Care Authority

Mr. Fischer shared with the Board a presentation on HCA's Value Based Purchasing program. His program was shortened due to time, and he will return at a future meeting to engage the Board on this topic again.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Next meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Meeting to be held on Zoom
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.