

# Advisory Committee on Data Issues meeting minutes

July 8, 2021  
Health Care Authority  
Meeting held electronically (Zoom) and telephonically  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 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

Megan Atkinson  
Amanda Avalos  
Allison Bailey  
Jonathan Bennett  
Purav Bhatt  
Bruce Brazier  
Jason Brown  
Jerome Dugan  
Leah Hole-Marshall  
Karen Johnson  
Scott Juergens  
Lichiou Lee  
Josh Liao  
Ana Morales  
Thea Mounts  
Hunter Plumer  
Mark Pregler  
Julie Sylvester

## Agenda items

### Welcome and Call to Order

J.D. Fischer, committee facilitator, called the meeting to order at 10:03 p.m.

### Welcoming remarks

Sue Birch, Health Cost Transparency Board, Chair

Ms. Birch welcomed the group. Ms. Birch reminded the Committee that they had been selected to represent the diverse participants in the health care market and asked them to have thorough discussions and provide frank insight and feedback.

### Committee member and staff introductions

Advisory Committee on Data Issue meeting minutes  
07/08/2021



## Open public meetings training

Katy Hatfield, AAG

PowerPoint presentation

Ms. Hatfield provided the Committee with an overview of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), relevant guidelines for adherence based on the Washington State Supreme Court's interpretations of the OPMA, and its applicability to Committee meetings and communications. The presentation covered topics including:

- The purpose of the OPMA.
- Which meetings are subject to OPMA,
- What constitutes a "governing body" and a "meeting."
- Regular, special, and emergency meetings and executive sessions.
- Penalties for violations and risk management tips.
- COVID-19 impacts on OPMA.

## Washington's Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark Legislation

Mich'l Needham, Chief Policy Officer, Health Care Authority

PowerPoint presentation

Ms. Needham provided the Committee with an overview of House Bill 2475 which established the Health Care Cost Transparency Board and tasked it with:

- Establishing a health care cost growth benchmark or target percentage for growth.
- Analyzing total health care expenditures.
- Identifying trends in health care cost growth.
- Identifying entities that exceed the health care cost growth benchmark.
- Appointing two advisory committees.
- Reporting to the Governor and the Legislature on progress towards developing the benchmark and annual total health care expenditures relative to the benchmark.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Introduction to Health Care Cost Growth Benchmarks

AnnaLisa Gellermann, Board Manager, Health Care Authority

PowerPoint presentation

Ms. Gellerman presented an overview of health care cost growth benchmarks to the Committee. The overview included the following topics:

- The definition and value of a cost growth benchmark.
- Examples from other states that have pursued cost growth benchmarks and their selected benchmark values.
- The logic model for a cost growth benchmark.
- Calculating total health care expenditures.
- Cost driver analysis.



## Future Topics and Design Decisions Requiring Committee Input

J.D. Fischer, Facilitator, and Ross McCool, Health Care Authority  
PowerPoint presentation

Mr. Fischer and Mr. McCool provided an overview to the Committee of future topics and design decisions for which the Board will require Committee input. Topics included:

- Benchmark performance evaluation design decisions, including:
  - Minimum payer/provider size for requiring data submission and publicly reporting performance.
  - Application of risk adjustment.
  - Strategies for dealing with high-cost outliers.
  - Using standard deviation/variance/confidence interval/statistical testing to evaluate whether the benchmark was achieved.
  - Methodology for attributing providers to large provider organizations.
- Data use strategy design decisions, including:
  - Goals of the data use strategy.
  - Identifying types of analyses and data sources.
  - Interpretation of analyses.
- The definition of rationale and framework for a data use strategy.
- Request data examples.
- Recommended analytic reports.

## Next meeting

Tuesday, August 10, 2021  
Meeting to be held on Zoom  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.