

Universal Health Care Commission meeting minutes

April 17, 2025

Hybrid meeting held on Zoom and in person at the Health Care Authority (HCA) from 2–5 p.m.

Note: The meeting materials packet and a full recording of this meeting can be found on the [Commission's meetings and materials page](#).

All votes made during this meeting are highlighted throughout in blue.

Members present

Vicki Lowe, Chair
Bidisha Mandal
Charles Chima
Dave Iseminger
Jane Beyer
Laura Kate Zaichkin (representing the Washington Health Benefit Exchange)
Mohamed Shidane
Nicole Gomez

Members absent

Representative Joe Schmick
Omar Santana-Gomez
Stella Vasquez

Call to order

Vicki Lowe, Chair of the Universal Health Care Commission (Commission), called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Sufficient members were present to allow a quorum.

Agenda items

I. Welcoming remarks

Chair Lowe began with a land acknowledgement and welcomed members to the Commission's 23rd meeting.

II. Meeting minutes

Commission members approved the February 2025 meeting minutes by unanimous vote.

III. Public comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Jordan Despain**, Confluence Health
- **Scott Sutherland**, Washington Community Action Network (CAN)
- **Dave Chase**, Health Rosetta
- **Raleigh Watts**, Whole Washington
- **John Godfrey**, Washington CAN
- **Andre Stackhouse**, Whole Washington
- **Faheem Hashmey**, University of Washington (UW)
- **Marcia Stedman**, Health Care for All – Washington (HCFA – WA)
- **Maureen Brinck-Lund**, League of Women Voters

Public comment topics included:

- Support for universal health care and the Washington Health Trust bill
- Requests to address governance before cost and eligibility
- Request for analysis of SB 5233
- Questions about the relationship between private enterprise and the government for universal health care
- Support for an actuarial analysis that incorporates administrative costs

Find full testimonies in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 12:00\)](#).

IV. Workplan update and governance discussion

[Mary Franzen, HCA, and Liz Arjun, Health Management Associates \(HMA\)](#)

Mary Franzen reviewed the milestone tracker and 2025 workplan, as well as the milestones to address at today's meeting:

- Benefits and services
- Cost containment mechanisms
- Provider participation and reimbursement

Franzen then provided an overview of governance, and Liz Arjun led Commission members in a discussion on whether they should consider governance within Phase 1. Members requested more information on what moving to governance would look like before making any decisions.

Find the full presentation and discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp: 30:54\)](#).

V. Finance Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) update and benefit cost analysis report

[David DiGiuseppe, FTAC Liaison to the Commission](#)

David DiGiuseppe then provided an overview of FTAC's March meeting, including public comments and [the benefit cost analysis conducted by Milliman](#). DiGiuseppe shared select findings from Milliman's three modeled scenarios and answered questions from Commission members.

Following this overview, DiGiuseppe shared a framework developed by FTAC members to identify how to move forward with the results from the Milliman analysis. The framework included open questions that would require Commission decision making. DiGiuseppe noted that after his overview of the framework, HMA would facilitate a discussion on these open questions and FTAC recommendations for next steps.

Find his presentation in the [meeting recording \(time stamp: 1:00:53\)](#).

VI. Future directions and possible modeling

Liz Arjun, HMA

Liz Arjun facilitated a discussion on future directions given the findings from the benefit cost analysis and the framework and recommendations proposed by FTAC. Commission members discussed the three scenarios, their total expenses, and plan design assumptions at length. They also discussed potential future analyses. HCA staff noted that funding for future studies will be dependent on the final budget from the Legislature, which hadn't yet been finalized at the time of the meeting.

Find the full discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp: 1:52:34\)](#).

VII. State agency updates

Chair Lowe invited state agency representatives to provide updates from their agencies on work that aligns with the Commission. The following members provided updates:

- **Dr. Charles Chima**, Department of Health (DOH)
- **Dave Iseminger**, Health Care Authority (HCA)
- **Jane Beyer**, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC)
- **Laura Kate Zaichkin**, Washington Health Benefit Exchange (WAHBE)

Topics included bills relevant to the Commission this legislative session, potential budget implications, and federal policies relevant to the Commission.

Find their full updates in the [meeting recording here \(time stamp: 2:29:27\)](#).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Next meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, from 2–5 p.m.

The meeting will be held on Zoom and in person at HCA.