

Universal Health Care Commission meeting minutes

June 11, 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
Nico Janssen (representing the Office of the Insurance Commissioner)
Joan Altman
Representative Joe Schmick
Mohamed Shidane
Nicole Gomez
Omar Santana-Gomez

Members absent

Stella Vasquez

Call to order

Vicki Lowe, Chair of the Universal Health Care Commission (Commission), called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. There were enough members for a quorum, so the Commission could hold votes.

Agenda items

I. Welcoming remarks

Chair Lowe began with a land acknowledgement and welcomed members to the Commission's 24th meeting.

II. Meeting minutes

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

III. Public comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Andre Stackhouse**, Whole Washington
- **Edourd Lassalle**, Kenmore resident
- **Kathryn Lewandowsky**, Whole Washington

Public comment topics included:

- Support for state-based universal health system bills and a reminder that the Commission must recommend a unified financing system that includes (but is not limited to) a single-payer system
- General support for universal health care
- Recommendations for future actuarial analyses
- Recommendations to support rural hospitals through governance

Find full testimonies in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 6:11\)](#).

IV. Interstate health care compacts

Insurance Commissioner Patty Kuderer, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC)

Insurance Commissioner Patty Kuderer shared a brief overview of interstate health care compacts, also referred to as 1333 compacts. She proposed the Commission invite the Oregon Universal Health Plan Governance Board to the September 2025 meeting.

At that meeting, both groups could learn more about 1333 compacts and hold an open discussion about potential opportunities to work together on a universal health care system that benefits both states.

Find Commissioner Kuderer's full remarks in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 14:47\)](#).

V. 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)
- **Nico Janssen**, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC)
- **Joan Altman**, Washington Health Benefit Exchange (WAHBE)
- **Omar Santana-Gomez**, Office of Equity (OOE)

Commission members discussed various topics, including:

- Announcement of the new DOH Secretary of Health (Dennis Worsham)
- Potential implications from federal-level decisions
- State budget impacts
- Update on the SB 5083 implementation process
- Upcoming PEBB/SEBB rate publication
- Proposed carrier rates

Find their full updates in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 18:27\)](#).

VI. Budget, workplan, and charter update

Mary Franzen and Todd Bratton, HCA

Franzen provided an update to the 2025 meeting schedule and reviewed the timeline for the annual legislative report. She also discussed budget impacts to the Commission, including staff reduction and the termination of consultant support. Franzen highlighted that the 2025–2027 budget contains new proviso funding from the OIC to support economic, actuarial, or other modeling related to design of a universal health care system.

Franzen then reviewed a potential update to the attendance policy in the FTAC charter that would require HCA staff to notify FTAC members that miss three meetings in a calendar year, or three consecutive meetings in a twelve-month period, that they may be removed due to attendance. Determination of whether an FTAC member will be removed will be at the sole discretion of the Commission. Commission members voted unanimously to adopt the updated attendance policy for the FTAC charter.

Bratton then provided an update on cost containment as it relates to the Commission’s workplan. Bratton noted that he anticipates the cost containment milestone will remain “in progress” as the Commission’s work continues throughout the milestone phases. This is due to the Commission’s ongoing work around transitional solutions and key design elements. For example, cost containment mechanisms will continue to be a part of benefits and services, provider reimbursement, and infrastructure. Commission members had no questions or discussion regarding this update.

Find the full presentation and discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 35:59\)](#).

VII. Finance Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) update

David DiGiuseppe, FTAC lead

DiGiuseppe provided an update from the May FTAC meeting which included:

- Overview of the public comments received
- Timing of governance in the workplan
- Open questions from the benefit cost analysis
- Introduction of a potential Commission-FTAC workgroup

DiGiuseppe noted that FTAC members appreciated the rationale for accelerating governance in the workplan but recommended maintaining the current phasing approach.

DiGiuseppe then presented on the various Commission and FTAC discussions regarding benefits and services, eligibility, and provider reimbursement and participation. DiGiuseppe noted that all of [FTAC’s meetings are recorded and available online](#) along with the meeting packets that include any material considered by FTAC.

Find the full presentation and discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 1:02:53\)](#).

VIII. Governance examples and discussion

Mary Franzen, HCA and Liz Arjun, HMA

Franzen provided examples of governance from Oregon’s Universal Health Plan Governance Board and the Washington State Health Benefit Exchange as requested by the Commission at their April meeting. Franzen noted both groups’ governance structures were included in the legislation that established them.

Commission members agreed that transparency and accountability are key in this work and that governance is an important design element, but that changing the timing of governance in the Commission’s workplan wasn’t needed at this time. During future meetings, the Commission may consider moving governance from Phase 3 to Phase 2 to allow for considering governance at the same time as infrastructure.

Find the full presentation and discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 1:39:19\)](#).

IX. Next steps discussion

Liz Arjun, HMA

Arjun led a discussion on what options the Commission could develop now regarding provider reimbursement and participation in a unified system. Commission members discussed:

- Importance of policies that support our rural hospitals,
- Impact of vertical integration and horizontal consolidation on our health care system
- Value-based payment models for primary care
- Delivery system throughlines
- Looking at how Indian Health Services tackles provider reimbursement

Arjun then led a discussion on transitional solutions, noting that previous Commission topics have included Medicare savings, the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP), and prior authorization. Commission members discussed several potential priorities, including:

- Mitigation strategies regarding federal changes like coverage losses
- Building on work the Commission had done previously (e.g., administrative simplification)
- Addressing health care workforce needs in rural areas

Find the full discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 2:12:02\)](#).

Closing comments and adjournment

Chair Lowe reminded Commission members about the upcoming Advocates Roundtable special meeting and that the August meeting date had been changed to Thursday, September 11, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Next meeting

Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 2–5 p.m.

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