

Universal Health Care Commission's Finance Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting minutes

May 15, 2025

Virtual meeting held on Zoom from 2–4:30 p.m.

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

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

Members present

Christine Eibner
David DiGiuseppe
Eddy Rauser
Ian Doyle
Kai Yeung
Pam MacEwan
Robert Murray
Roger Gantz

Members absent

Esther Lucero

Call to order

David DiGiuseppe, FTAC Lead, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Sufficient members were present to allow a quorum.

Agenda items

I. Welcoming remarks

DiGiuseppe welcomed members to the fifteenth meeting of FTAC. Mary Franzen, Coverage Strategies Manager at the Health Care Authority (HCA), noted that this will be Todd Bratton's (Senior Health Policy Analyst at HCA) last FTAC meeting. DiGiuseppe and Franzen thanked Bratton for his work.

II. Meeting minutes

FTAC members approved the March 2025 meeting minutes by unanimous vote.

III. Public comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Rachael Snell**
- **Kathryn Lewandowsky**, Whole Washington

Public comment topics included:

- Senate Joint Memorial (SJM) 8004: “Concerning Universal Health Care”
- General support for FTAC’s work

Find full testimonies in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 5:20\)](#).

IV. Workplan update

Mary Franzen, HCA

Mary Franzen provided a brief update on the Commission’s 2025 workplan, which aims to address phase 1 design elements (excluding financing) in 2025. Franzen highlighted that FTAC will be covering benefits and services, cost containment, and provider reimbursement/participation during today’s meeting.

Find the full presentation and discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 10:11\)](#).

V. Universal Health Care Commission (Commission) update

David DiGiuseppe, FTAC Lead

DiGiuseppe then provided a brief update from the Commission’s April 17 meeting. His update included an overview of the public comments received, governance, and the Milliman cost-modeling analysis. After a brief discussion, FTAC members agreed by consensus that they did not need governance accelerated in the Commission’s workplan to provide guidance regarding phase 1 design elements.

DiGiuseppe led a robust discussion on several of the phase 1 design elements (benefits and services, eligibility, and provider reimbursement). DiGiuseppe presented open questions that remained following the discussion and decisions made at the April Commission meeting.

DiGiuseppe also noted that HCA staff are working with him and Commission Chair Vicki Lowe to form a subgroup of Commission and FTAC members. The subgroup will resolve open questions about benefits, services, and the scope of potential analytical projects.

Find the full presentation and discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 12:54\)](#).

VI. Cost containment discussion and potential recommendation

Todd Bratton and Ross Valore, HCA

Bratton presented an overview of FTAC’s cost containment work so far, including hospital global budgets, reference-based pricing, and relevant state agency reports. FTAC members discussed a new approach to incorporate cost containment mechanisms within universal design elements (e.g., benefits and services, provider reimbursement) as opposed to treating it as a stand-alone design element.

Bratton provided a brief update from the April 24 Health Care Cost Transparency Board (Cost Board) meeting including an overview of hospital cost growth in Washington state and strategies to address it. FTAC members discussed building off the work of the Cost Board and incorporating its strategies into universal design and

interim solutions. Bratton also noted that FTAC member Bob Murray will present Hospital Global Budgets at the June 3 Cost Board meeting.

Find the full presentation and discussion in the [meeting recording \(time stamp 1:49:55\)](#).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Next meeting

Thursday, July 17, 2025, from 2–4:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held on Zoom.