

# The Office of Health Strategy

## Healthcare Benchmark Initiative Data Analytics Workgroup Charter

### Approved May 2025

## I. Vision and Mission

### A. Vision

To advance cost growth benchmark attainment through improved understanding of healthcare spending, utilization, and price growth in the commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid markets in Connecticut.

### B. Mission

To aid the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy's (OHS) Healthcare Benchmark Initiative by designing and reviewing standard and ad hoc cost and utilization reports and analyses, identifying opportunities to reduce spending growth, as well as providing advice on benchmark performance measurement methodologies, and offering recommendations for areas of focus to OHS' Healthcare Benchmark Initiative Team and Committees.

## II. Workgroup Charge – Goals and Objectives

The Healthcare Benchmark Initiative Data Analytics Workgroup is charged with making recommendations to the Healthcare Benchmark Advisory Groups and/or the Office of Health Strategy regarding opportunities for reducing cost growth in the state. The Workgroup's activity shall include providing advice on:

- Implementing a data strategy including design and review of standard and ad hoc reports.
- Benchmarking of Connecticut spending to other states' benchmarks.
- Identifying contributors to high spending, spending variation and spending growth.
- Identifying opportunities for cost growth mitigation strategies to improve healthcare affordability.
- Using analytic findings in an illustrative manner to make a compelling case to support policy change to ensure equitable, high-quality healthcare and improved population health.
- Offering contextual insights when interpreting analytic findings.
- Offer support and alternatives in methodological adjustments used within cost growth target and performance reporting.

## III. Workgroup Member and OHS Responsibilities

### A. Member Responsibilities

Members of the Workgroup agree to fulfill their responsibilities through attending and participating in Workgroup meetings, studying the available information, and advising OHS on work related to the Workgroup's charge. Members agree to participate in good faith and to act

in the best interests of the Workgroup and its charge. To this end, members agree to place the interests of the State above any organizational affiliations or other interests during discussions. Members accept the responsibility of collaborating in developing potential recommendations that are fair and constructive. Members are expected to consider a range of issues and options to address them, discuss the pros and cons of the issues/options presented, and deliver advice. Workgroup members acknowledge that their role is to provide advice and frame report design choices and that final decisions on Workgroup recommendations, if any, rest with the State. Specific Workgroup member responsibilities include:

- Reviewing background materials and analysis to understand the issues to be addressed in the review process.
- Attending Workgroup meetings.
- Working collaboratively with one another to explore issues and develop recommendations.
- Considering and integrating State and Steering Committee direction into advice as appropriate.

#### B. OHS Responsibilities

The duties of OHS to the Workgroup are as follows:

- Inform the Workgroup about all changes that impact its mission, which include Federal and State policy.
- Support the Workgroup by providing administrative support, technical assistance, and other support as resources allow.
- Ensure on-going communication between the Healthcare Benchmark Advisory Groups, any relevant subgroups, and agency staff and leadership.
- OHS staff assigned to the Workgroup will attend all meetings and inform the Workgroup of timely developments.

### IV. Workgroup Principles

The principles listed below are to guide the development of advice by Workgroup members. Advice from Workgroup members will:

- reflect statistically robust and equity-conscious consideration of state analysis, and
- be sensitive to possible limitations to state analytic resources and data, and
- convey courtesy and respect.