

Healthcare Cabinet Meeting Minutes

July 13th, 2021

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
July 13, 2021	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Webinar and Conference Call

Participant Name and Attendance

Healthcare Cabinet Members					
Victoria Veltri	X	Kurt Barwis	X	Valencia Bagby Young	X
Ellen Andrews	X	Alan Kaye	X	James Michel	X
Rev. Robyn Anderson	X	Paul Lombardo	X	David Whitehead	X
Patricia Baker	X	Heather Aaron	X	Judy Dowd	X
Nicole Taylor	X	Nichelle Mullins	X	Margherita Giuliano	X
Shelly Sweatt	X	Danielle Morgan	X	Hussam Saada	X
Nancy Navarretta	X	Cassandra Murphy	X		
Ted Doolittle	X	Jill Zorn	X		
Others Present					
Kim Martone, OHS		Brie Wolf, DPH			
Miriam Miller, OSC					
Ken Mysogland, DCF					
Members Absent					
Joshua Wojcik					
William Handelman					

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1	Call to order and Introductions	Victoria Veltri
	The regularly scheduled meeting of the Healthcare Cabinet was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. Victoria Veltri presiding. Attendance taken by roll call.	
2	Public Comment	Victoria Veltri
	There was no public comment.	
3	Approval of the June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes	Victoria Veltri
	The motion was made by James Michel and seconded by Danielle Morgan approve the June 8, 2021 Healthcare Cabinet meeting minutes. Motion carried.	
4	Access Health - Update	James Michel, Access Health

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Ms. Veltri introduced James Michel from Access Health who gave a brief update American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. Michel noted that Access Health CT opened a Special Enrollment Period for consumers who were not currently enrolled in coverage through AHCT. This effort aligned with the Special Enrollment Period in the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) and most importantly helped consumers during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Public Health Emergency. The Special Enrollment Period (SEP) took place February 15 through April 15, 2021. Mr. Michel reminded the committee members that an expanded special enrollment period for CT residents who are uninsured, underinsured, or would like access to new financial help is in effect from May 1 – August 15, 2021.

Below are the highlights from the presentation.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) – Update.

- AHCT ran automatic ARP Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTCs) updates for eligible enrollees in June.
- More than 33K enrollees benefited with over \$4.5M in additional monthly financial help applied.
- Customers will now be able to attest to receiving unemployment income in 2021 and will benefit from premiums at the 133% FPL Level (0% contribution rate or near \$0 plans).

Access Health CT – Enrollment Update.

- Implemented approximately 570 automatic enrollments for immediately eligible Access Health CT customers.
- Published a Knowledgebase Article online with program information, including detailed eligibility requirements.
- Published website content updates where the program is relevant, including financial help pages.
- Communicated with immediately eligible population about their new benefits via email and will have direct mail in-hand this week.
- Acquisition strategy in process for communicating (email/direct mail) the benefits of the program for Connecticut residents that could participate in the program if they make plan changes.
- Working to scale the system and our digital infrastructure to accommodate this program, requiring significant time and financial resources.

Mr. Michel gave a brief update on the **Covered Connecticut Program**. As of July 1, some Connecticut residents that meet specific eligibility requirements will be paying \$0 for their health insurance coverage through Access Health CT, thanks to the new Covered Connecticut Program created by the State of Connecticut. The State will pay the customer's portion of the monthly premium directly to their insurance company and will also pay for the cost-sharing amounts that customers would normally have to pay with a health insurance plan.

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<p>Ms. Veltri thanked Mr. Michel for the update. Several discussions ensued for more information please see the meeting recording link below.</p> <p>https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS%20Health%20Care%20Cabinet%2020210713%20Recording.mp4</p>	
<p>6 Connecticut Healthcare Affordability Index</p>	<p>Vicki Veltri, OHS Miriam Miller, OSC</p>
<p>Ms. Veltri introduced Miriam Miller who will presenting the Connecticut Health Care Affordability Index to the cabinet members.</p> <p>Below are the highlights from the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CT Healthcare Affordability Index is a combined effort of the CT Office of Health Strategy and the Office of the State Comptroller • Supported by the CT Health Foundation and the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut • Built on the foundation of the 2019 Connecticut Self-Sufficiency Standard and updated with detailed healthcare data from Access Health CT, the CT All Payers Claims Database, and a national survey of healthcare expenses • Data analysis was conducted by the University of Washington School of Social Work and UCONN Analytics and Information Management Solutions (AIMS) • Healthcare Affordability is a Major Problem in Connecticut • The presence of children increases the likelihood that a family will have inadequate income • Younger children present a greater challenge to income inadequacy • Those who have children and have employer sponsored insurance experience income inadequacy at a lower rate than those with individual marketplace insurance and those with Medicaid • Households headed by people of color disproportionately experience income inadequacy, including unaffordable healthcare • Regardless of insurance type, all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) households see higher rates of income inadequacy than white households • Those with employer sponsored insurance are less likely to experience income inadequacy than other insurance types; however, BIPOC experience much higher rates of income inadequacy <p>CHAI Conclusions and Next Steps</p> <p>Key Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare is not affordable for nearly 18% of working age households in Connecticut • Households with young children find healthcare unaffordable at a higher rate 	

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- Single Black, Indigenous, People of Color parents are the most likely to struggle to afford household basic needs, including healthcare costs
- Adults’ health risk status and age category have a large impact on affordability

Next steps in Connecticut

Reducing the cost of healthcare services, increasing access to insurance coverage and providing subsidies or assistance where needed will make healthcare more affordable for more residents of Connecticut.

Ms. Veltri thanked Ms. Miller for an in-depth presentation. Several discussions ensued for more information please see meeting recording link below.

<https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS%20Health%20Care%20Cabinet%2020210713%20Recording.mp4>

7	Legislative Update	CT Agencies
<p>Several state agencies and the Office of Health Strategies gave a summarization of major legislation impacting their agencies.</p> <p>Ms. Veltri thanked all of the agencies who reported and noted that a summary of the agency reports will be sent to the cabinet members. For more information, please see the meeting recorder link below.</p> <p>https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS%20Health%20Care%20Cabinet%2020210713%20Recording.mp4v</p>		
8	Adjourn	Victoria Veltri
<p>The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by James Michel and seconded by Alan Kaye. The motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.</p>		