

Physician Practice Workgroup Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2021

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
December 9, 2021	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Webinar and Conference Call

Participant Name and Attendance

Physician Practice Workgroup Members					
Rod Acosta	X	Lou Fiorillo	X	Atique Mirza	X
Jean Ahn	X	Khuram Ghumman	X	Robin Gail Oshman	X
Rich Almada	X	Richard Goldstein	X	Theresa Riordan	
Marjorie Breen	X	Chris Hyers	X	Robert Russo	
Ronald Ciesones	X	Dinesh Kapur	X	Michael Steinmetz	
Jeff Cohen		Alan Kaye	X	Lisa Trumble	X
Alan Coker	X	Steven Lazarus	X		
Rachel Davis	X	Leland McKenna	X		
Others Present					
Members Absent					
Theresa Riordan		Jeff Cohen			
Robert Russo					
Michael Steinmetz					

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1	Call to order and motion to open meeting	Steven Lazarus
	The second scheduled meeting of the Physician Practice Workgroup was held on Thursday, December 9, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. Steven Lazarus presiding. Attendance taken by roll call by Ron Ciesones. Steven Lazarus welcomed everyone to the second meeting and asked for a motion to open the meeting. Rod Acosta made a motion to start the meeting and a second motion was followed by Khuram Ghumman. The meeting was officially opened.	
2	Approval of the November 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes	Steven Lazarus
	Steven Lazarus asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting. Leland McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes and a second motion was followed by Richard Goldstein. The minutes were officially approved.	
3	Approval of meetings for the next six (6) months	Steven Lazarus
	Steven Lazarus asked for a motion to set the group's meeting schedule for the second Thursday of each month for the next six (6) months. Lisa Trumble made a motion to approve the meeting times and a second motion was made by Richard Goldstein.	

Physician Practice Workgroup Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2021

4	Public Comment	Steven Lazarus
There was no public comment		
5	OHS Statutes on Group Practices Presentation	Steven Lazarus
<p>Steven Lazarus gave a presentation on the OHS statutes that are applicable to group practices and the CON process (statutes 19a-638(3) and 19a-630(9) an 19a-639(b)).</p> <p>Below are some of the highlights from the presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19a-638(3) explains OHS authority regarding the CON process for a large group practice. • 19a-630(9) provides a definition for “large group practice” which is eight (8) or more full-time equivalent physicians that are legally organized. • 19a-639(b) implies there shall be a presumption in favor of approving a certificate of need (CON) application for the transfer of ownership of a large group practice. • Since the beginning of 2016 there were 4 CON Determinations. Three didn’t require a CON and one needed a CON. Overall, OHS reviewed 2 CON applications. One was an approval and one was an agreed settlement that was approved with conditions. <p>Alan Kaye asked about the two agreed settlements and Steven indicated he will email the group the two agreed settlements.</p> <p>The Powerpoint presentation is available on the OHS website by clicking on the following link which will bring the user to the December 9, 2021, Physician Practice Workgroup page.</p> <p>https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Content/Health-Care-Cabinet/Physician-Practice-Workgroup/Meeting-Agendas</p>		
6	Group Practice Presentation	Olga Armah
<p>Steven Lazarus introduced Olga Armah from OHS who provided the group with a presentation on physician group practice data collected by OHS.</p> <p>Below are some of the highlights from the presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.G.S 19a-486i (g) and (h) require group practices with 30 or more physicians to report data to OHS and the Office of the Attorney General. • The data filed shows the name of the group and affiliation to the hospital, a list of the practice’s physicians and their specialties, and the practice location, primary service area zip codes and specialty services provided at the location. • The filings are required for Certificate of Need purposes to determine health care costs, accessibility to care, monitor the diversity of providers and patient choice in the region. • The filings are also required by the Attorney General’s office related to monopoly issues and their impact on consumers. • An example of a filing for several different hospitals was shown. • Data on Material change of ownership transactions from 2015 – 2020 was provided. 		

Physician Practice Workgroup Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2021

- There are limitations on the data collected as it doesn't show all group practices, not all specialties are at all locations, and most large group practices are affiliated with a health system, provide various specialties and acquire smaller medical practices that offer similar specialties.
- An Excel dashboard was presented showing data for different medical groups. The data showed the number of locations by calendar year, the practice's share of large group locations within CT, the number of physicians at a practice by calendar year, the practice's share of large group towns by zip code, and the number of locations the practice has with various specialties.

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<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Content/Health-Care-Cabinet/Physician-Practice-Workgroup/Meeting-Agendas>

Steven Lazarus thanked Olga Armah for her presentation and the work involved in putting the dashboard together.

A discussion related to the data in the presentation ensued between members of the workgroup related to the reporting of physician group practice data, professional service agreements, and if the data currently being collected was adequate. For more information, please see the meeting recording link on the December 9, 2021, Physician Practice Workgroup page noted above.

7	Future meetings and workgroup data	Steven Lazarus
	<p>Steven Lazarus indicated that at the next meeting in January, Fiona Scott Morton from the Yale School of Medicine will present on the landscape of healthcare. Steven suggested that if anyone has any ideas for meetings, or to invite someone from their own organization to present, to please send an email to himself or Ron Ciesones.</p> <p>Dinesh Kapur indicated that he has three news articles he would like to forward to the group. The articles deal with information from networks on the cost of care.</p> <p>Alan Kaye mentioned a presentation on the affects of consolidation in the marketplace that was done at the Health Care Cabinet. He felt this would be a good presentation for the group. He also discussed a presentation that would be good for the group to see which dealt with the corporate practice of medicine and how companies try to get around laws.</p>	

Physician Practice Workgroup Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2021

8	Adjourn	Steven Lazarus
The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Robin Oshman and a second motion was made by Dinesh Kapur. The motion passed with no one abstaining and the meeting was officially closed. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.		