

## Healthcare Benchmark Initiative Steering Committee

*“We collaborate, out of a shared concern and responsibility for all Connecticut residents, to develop consensus models that advance equity and consumer affordability of healthcare in our state.”*

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
December 16, 2024	3:00 pm – 3:40 pm	Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86419983822?pwd=Ymkzb0U4VFgxbFRVNERRNmVtSjc1Zz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86419983822?pwd=Ymkzb0U4VFgxbFRVNERRNmVtSjc1Zz09</a>

### Participant Name and Attendance | Steering Committee Members

Tim Archer	R	Paul Grady	R	Susan Millerick	R
Joanne Borduas	R	Angela Harris	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
Jim Cardon	R	Sean King	X	Lori Pasqualini	R
Ayesha Clarke	R	Gail Kosyla	X	Kathy Silard	X
Francois de Brantes	R	Paul Lombardo	R	Marie Smith	R
Tiffany Donelson	R	Chris Manzi	X	Stephen Traub	R
Judy Dowd	R	Andy Markowski	R	Chris Ulbrich	R
Lou Gianquinto	X	Chris Marsh	R	Kristen Whitney-Daniels	R
Deidre Gifford (Chair)	R	Michelle Rakebrand (for Mark Meador)	R	Josh Wojcik	R

Leslie Greer, OHS	R	Patty Blodgett, OHS	R	Michael Bailit, Bailit Health	R
Alex Reger, OHS	R	Lisa Sementilli, OHS	R	Matt Reynolds, Bailit Health	R
Wendy Fuchs, OHS	R	Olga Armah, OHS	R		

R = Attended Remotely; IP = In Person; X = Did Not Attend

### Agenda

	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
1.	<b>Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda Review</b>	<b>Deidre Gifford</b>	<b>3:00 pm</b>
	Deidre Gifford welcomed everyone to the December Steering Committee meeting. Deidre invited Matt Reynolds to conduct a roll call. There was a quorum present. Deidre then reviewed the agenda for the meeting.		
2.	<b>Committee Action: Approval of October 28, 2024 Minutes</b>	<b>Steering Committee Members</b>	<b>3:05 pm</b>
	Susan Millerick motioned to approve the minutes. Ayesha Clarke seconded the motion. There was no opposition, nor any abstentions. The minutes were approved.		
3.	<b>Results of OHS’ Annual Review</b>	<b>Deidre Gifford</b>	<b>3:10 pm</b>
	Deidre Gifford shared that OHS decided not to adjust the 2025 cost growth benchmark value due to inflation. Deidre noted that OHS’ decision last year to adjust the 2024 benchmark value was a result of historically high inflation in 2022; while inflation remained higher than usual in 2023, it was markedly lower than in 2022. Deidre concluded by sharing that OHS believed the benchmark should only be adjusted under extraordinary circumstances, as the stability and predictability of the cost growth benchmark are key to its efficacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Steering Committee members voiced support for OHS’ decision.</li> </ul>		
4.	<b>Technical Team Status Report</b>	<b>Michael Bailit</b>	<b>3:20 pm</b>
	Michael Bailit reminded the Steering Committee of the Technical Team’s charge and membership. Michael then reviewed the content that the Technical Team had discussed during its first three meetings. <p>Michael shared that the Technical Team recommended the following decision-making criteria for identifying an indicator to which to tie the benchmark:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide a stable and therefore predictable target;</li> </ol>		

2. rely on independent, objective sources with transparent calculations, and
3. produce a benchmark value such that spending growth will not exceed change in consumer, employer, and taxpayer ability to pay.

Michael also relayed that Technical Team members had emphasized reporting spending growth by market to ensure sufficient attention is drawn to the high rates of growth in commercial market spending. Michael noted that most Technical Team members favored tying the benchmark to forecasted values for a consumer-centric measure, including average annual changes in one or more of: inflation (CPI-U or PCE), median household income, average wages, and Medicare spending. Michael added that members recommended that OHS continue using age and sex risk adjustment, and some members emphasized the need for enforcement provisions for the benchmark to serve its purpose and lower spending growth.

Michael asked Steering Committee members for their reactions to the Technical Team discussions to date, and/or any feedback that members wished to provide to the Technical Team.

- A provider representative on the Steering Committee recommended that the Technical Team consider risk adjusting for more than just age and sex. The member supported continuing to report performance by market and noted that they thought utilization trends across markets needed to be taken into greater consideration (in addition to prices).
- Another Steering Committee member asked how the Technical Team was incorporating equity in its work. Michael Bailit replied that the Technical Team was taking equity into consideration in its discussion of which economic indicator(s) to which to tie the benchmark.
  - The member suggested that the Technical Team consider stratifying spending data by race. The member asked if OHS would, in the near future, receive demographic data from Connie or other sources besides the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD). Michael replied that OHS recently developed new standards for collection of race and ethnicity [and also language and disability] data, adding that adoption of the standards and increased collection of these data would enhance the stratification analyses that OHS could perform.
  - Deidre Gifford clarified that the cost growth benchmark is based on aggregate spending data collected from payers, rather than claims data in the APCD.
- An employer representative on the Steering Committee asked if the Technical Team would discuss how to address consolidation in health care and the resulting lack of competition. Deidre replied that consolidation was outside of the Technical Team’s limited charge but noted that the Steering Committee could address this topic during a future meeting.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Members of the Public</b>	<b>3:38 pm</b>
	Deidre Gifford offered the opportunity for public comment. There were no public comments.		
<b>6.</b>	<b>Wrap-up and Next Steps</b>	<b>Deidre Gifford</b>	<b>3:39 pm</b>
	The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27 <sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm. Deidre Gifford extended best wishes to the members for a good holiday season.		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Committee Action: Adjournment</b>	<b>Steering Committee Members</b>	<b>3:40 pm</b>
	Stephen Traub motioned to adjourn. Jim Cardon seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.		

**All meeting information and materials are published on the OHS website located at:**  
<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Healthcare-Benchmark-Initiative-Steering-Committee/Meeting-Agendas>