

## HEALTHCARE BENCHMARK INITIATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2025 | 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT

### Zoom Meeting Recording

#### ATTENDANCE:

##### By Electronic Device:

Jim Cardon	Angela Harris	Cassandra Murphy
Ayesha Clarke	Gail Kosyla	Marie Smith
Mehul Dalal	Alex Borkowski (replacing Paul Lombardo)	Jennifer Donahue (replacing Stephen Traub)
Francois de Brantes	Andy Markowski	Kristen Whitney-Daniels
Tiffany Donelson	Chris Marsh	
Judy Dowd		

##### Absent:

Tim Archer	Kathy Holt	Kathy Silard
Joanne Borduas	Mark Meador	Chris Ulbrich
Lou Gianquinto	Susan Millerick	Josh Wojcik
Paul Grady	Lori Pasqualini	

##### Other Participants:

Alex Reger	Amy Tibor	Michael Bailit
Cindy Dubuque-Gallo	Amy Porter	Matt Reynolds

#### WELCOME, ROLL CALL, AND AGENDA REVIEW

Alex Reger called the meeting to order at 3:02pm and asked Matt Reynolds to conduct a roll call. There was a quorum present. Alex then reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

Jim Cardon motioned to approve the March meeting minutes. Ayesha Clarke seconded the motion. The Steering Committee approved the minutes, with Alex Borkowski abstaining.

#### INTRODUCING OHS' NEW ACTING COMMISSIONER

Alex Reger shared that, following Deidre Gifford's retirement, Amy Porter is serving in dual capacities as commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services and acting commissioner of OHS for an interim period. Amy introduced herself to the Steering Committee and thanked the members for their service and past contributions.

#### EVOLUTION OF ADVISORY AND CONSULTING BODIES

Alex Reger shared that, due to a reduced need for monthly Steering Committee meetings, desire for improved efficiency, and the value OHS had realized from smaller, more specialized workgroups, OHS would begin to convene a new Benchmark Stakeholder Committee and a new Benchmark Impact Group to replace the existing Steering Committee. Alex noted that every active participant on the existing Steering Committee would be offered a spot on one of the two new groups. Alex shared that the Benchmark Stakeholder Committee would have similar representation to the current Steering Committee

and would meet quarterly, while the Benchmark Impact Group would be smaller, limited to providers, consumers, academics, legislators, municipal purchasers, and small employers, and would meet every other month. Alex reviewed OHS' goals and timeline for its advisory body evolution.

- Chris Marsh asked if the notion that every member would have an opportunity to serve on one of the two bodies meant that no members would serve on both bodies. Alex Reger replied that he did not believe any members would serve on both bodies. Chris agreed that it would not make sense for anyone to serve on both bodies.
- Tiffany Donelson asked about OHS' plan for transferring knowledge between the two groups. Alex replied that OHS would update each body on the work being done by the other. Alex said OHS also planned to have the groups overlap for larger meetings once or twice a year. Tiffany expressed some concern about whether things could get "lost in translation" when one body does not hear directly from the other. Alex thanked Tiffany for her comments and noted that OHS perhaps could have members from each body report to the other.
- Marie Smith asked how the new bodies related to OHS' "specialized" advisory bodies such as the Technical Team and Data Analytics Workgroup. Alex replied that the Technical Team was convened ad-hoc and had completed its work. He added that the Data Analytics Workgroup would not be impacted by the change and would continue to meet.
- Angela Harris said it would be beneficial to consumers and the listening public if OHS ensures all materials are clearly defined and explained so that the average citizen can follow along. Alex agreed and indicated that OHS is working to make all of its materials more accessible.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alex Reger offered the opportunity for public comment. No member of the public offered a comment.

**NEXT STEPS & MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Alex Reger said that the Steering Committee would meet next in September (on the 22<sup>nd</sup>). Andy Markowski motioned to adjourn. Chris Marsh seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark Initiative Steering Committee Meeting Materials:

<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Healthcare-Benchmark-Initiative-Steering-Committee/Meeting-Agendas>