CONNECTICUT
Health Strategy

Draft Healthcare Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Chair: Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Date: July 23, 2024, via Zoom call
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Attendance:

HCC Member	Present	Regrets		HCC Member	Present	Regrets
Robyn Anderson		x		James Michel*	x	
Ellen Andrews	x			Danielle Morgan	x	
Andrea Barton Reeves	x			Cassandra Murphy	x	
Kurt Barwis		x		Nancy Navarretta*	x	
Jeffrey R. Beckham *	x			Hassam Saada		x
James Cardon	x			Sean Scanlon*		x
Jodi Hill-Lilly *		x		Jordan Scheff		x
Manisha Juthani	x			Shelley Ann Stokes Sweatt	x	
Alan Kaye	x			Anthony Yoder	x	
Sean King	x					
Andrew Mais*	x					

**Represented by a designee*

Designees Present:		
Mehul Dalal/DSS	Susan Rich-Bye/AHCT	
Claudio Gualtieri	DC Collen Harrington/DMHAS	
Others Present:		
Boyd Jackson, OHS	Cindy Dubuque-Gallo, OHS	
Elisa Neira, OHS		

AGENDA	**Responsible Person(s)**
Welcome/Call to Order	**Deidre S. Gifford, Office of Health Strategy**
The regularly scheduled meeting of the Healthcare Cabinet was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, via Zoom. The meeting convened at 2:05 p.m. Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford presiding. Attendance taken by roll call.	
Approval of Minutes	**Members of the Healthcare Cabinet**
The minutes for the May and July minutes will be voted on at our next HCC meeting	

scheduled for September 24, 2024.	
AHEAD Model Governance Structure	**Elisa Neira, Office of Health Strategy**
Commissioner Gifford led the discussion on the Healthcare Cabinet's roles, responsibilities, and the model governance structure. She also provided updates on healthcare-related legislative initiatives and the draft facilities and services plan. Elisa then presented on the Health Equity model, proposing the creation of an advisory committee with diverse stakeholders, and seeking nominations for consumer or patient representatives. Concerns were raised about the time commitment and research-backed recommendations, which Elisa addressed. Commissioner Gifford and Ellen Andrews discussed the concerns and potential solutions regarding new payment models. Deidre emphasized the need for community participation and monitoring of any new payment strategy, acknowledging the existing system's shortcomings and the potential benefits of a new model. Ellen agreed, highlighting the importance of monitoring and the need to consider both potential upsides and downsides. They both expressed hope for a positive outcome, recognizing the need to bring costs down and improve health.	
Summary of 2023/2024 Legislative Session	**Cindy Dubuque-Gallo, Office of Health Strategy**
Cindy Dubuque-Gallo discussed several healthcare-related proposals that passed, including hospital financial reporting, changes to birth center licensing, and consumer protections in medical debt. She mentions the change in the Executive Director role at OHS to Commissioner and its impact on Dr. Gifford. Cindy also discusses the Health Information Exchange, stating providers must connect and actively participate within 18 months of implementation. Regarding proposals that didn't pass, Cindy mentions cost growth benchmark, performance improvement plans, and expanding the use of CMIRs. Cindy/OHS proposes creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to advise on prescription drug affordability, excluding innovative drugs from review. She suggests adding non-claims data to the All-Payer Claims Database for a comprehensive healthcare cost view. Cindy proposes hospitals report community benefits even without receiving APCD data. She also proposes a 340B transparency proposal requiring covered entities to share 340B program information with OHS for public disclosure.	
Feeback on Policy Areas for 2025	**Deidre S. Gifford, Office of Health Policy**
Commissioner Gifford, Cindy Dubuque-Gallo and Dr. Alan Kaye discussed the outcomes of a previous session's proposals and the recommendations for the State in 2025. Commissioner Gifford highlighted the progress made on the certificate of need and affordability proposals but noted that many issues remained unresolved. Alan proposed	

that the State could consider informational sessions and working groups without legislative mandate. Ellen emphasized the importance of transparency and public input in any future plans. The group also discussed the performance improvement plan (PIP) proposal, which was not fully explored due to time constraints, but concerns were raised about a lack of transparency and the refusal of drug manufacturers to appear at hearings.

Commissioner Gifford expressed concern about the rising cost of healthcare and sought suggestions for solutions. Ellen suggested that creative approaches are needed to address cost overruns, while Anthony emphasized the need for physicians to stay focused on this issue. James highlighted the importance of understanding the drivers of increasing healthcare costs, suggesting that robust analytics and improved data insights are necessary to develop effective mitigation strategies. He also cautioned about potential unintended consequences of fixing the process.

Dr. Jim Cardon emphasized the importance of improvement plans and the need for actionable information to make these plans realistic. Commissioner Gifford then discussed the legislative language proposed by the Benchmark Steering Committee to address concerns about data and the proposed solution to confirm hospital trends and drivers. The group agreed to work together to ensure they have the right people looking at the data and providing the necessary information. Lastly, Commissioner Gifford opened the floor for other legislative areas the group would like to see focused on in the healthcare space, with suggestions including transparency around private equity, data issues, and prescription drug affordability.

Facilities & Services Plan Update	**Boyd Jackson, Office of Health Strategy**

Boyd Jackson provided an update on the statewide healthcare facilities and services plan. The discussion centered around the State's facilities and services plan, with a focus on updates and potential changes. The plan, which was previewed with the healthcare cabinet and the public, is a statutory element of the certificate of need application process and serves as a tool for policymakers and legislators. The team reached out to providers, hospitals, and community members to facilitate conversations and gather feedback. The feedback received highlighted the need for enhanced data, especially in behavioral health, and the potential for an expedited pathway to certificate of need for geographic areas with high unmet needs for services. The team also discussed the need to shift focus in the cardiac services section to include the whole suite of services, not just percutaneous coronary intervention.

The plan is set to be updated every two years, with the last major overhaul occurring in 2012. The team is seeking stakeholder input on proposed updates, particularly in areas

such as imaging equipment, acute care, and inpatient bed needs. The goal is to incorporate new data and feedback to improve the plan, with a final report expected by the end of October. The team also emphasized the importance of clear guidelines for need determination and encouraged stakeholders to provide suggestions and citations to support their comments.

Ellen Andrews and Boyd Jackson discussed the assessment methodology for new technologies and the role of third-party experts in evaluating these technologies. Boyd explained the formal process being developed to engage third-party experts and the importance of understanding the need for new technology, its size of the population in Connecticut, and its improvement over existing care. Commissioner Gifford added that the plan is updated every two years and new technologies or services can be introduced during this update process. Ellen suggested consulting with the folks at Icer for their expertise. The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Public Comment	Members of the Public
There was no public comment	
Adjournment	
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.	

To view a recording of this meeting please click on the link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cwmLLQ6ExAmHJX5djsis6nI9DGx3EaAIVmQuxbqrnCN1YBC9yDsWVyGwWhVnqBMf.TGA6hUFdIfOts3eN

Passcode: BAY$gj=4