



MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

Health Policy Commission

Advisory Council

December 2, 2020



MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

AGENDA

- **Welcome by Executive Director David Seltz**
- Executive Director's Report
- Discussion

Welcome HPC Advisory Council Members!

- **Rich Buckley**, AstraZeneca
- **Michael Caljouw**, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- **Chris Carlozzi**, National Federation of Independent Business
- **Dr. Abbie Celniker**, Third Rock Ventures
- **JD Chesloff**, Massachusetts Business Roundtable
- **Dr. Cheryl Clark**, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- **Julie Pinkham**, Massachusetts Nurses Association
- **Bob Coughlin**, MassBio
- **Dr. Ron Dunlap**, Massachusetts Medical Society (designee Lois Cornell)
- **Audrey Gasteier**, Massachusetts Health Connector
- **Bonny Gilbert**, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
- **Tara Gregorio**, Mass Senior Care Association
- **Meg Hogan**, Mass Home Care
- **Jim Hunt**, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
- **Jon Hurst**, Retailers Association of Massachusetts
- **Pat Kelleher**, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts
- **Colin Killick**, Disability Policy Consortium
- **Dr. Danna Mauch**, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
- **Dave Matteodo**, Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems
- **Cheryl Pascucci**, Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- **Carlene Pavlos**, Massachusetts Public Health Association
- **Lora Pellegrini**, Massachusetts Association of Health Plans
- **Christopher Philbin**, Partners HealthCare System
- **Amy Rosenthal**, Health Care For All
- **Chris Schuster**, Emerson Hospital
- **Emily Stewart**, Casa Esperanza, Inc./Nueva Vida, Inc.
- **Dr. Steve Strongwater**, Atrius Health
- **Dan Tsai**, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (designee: Monica Sawhney)
- **Matthew Veno**, Group Insurance Commission
- **Dr. Michael Wagner**, Wellforce
- **Steve Walsh**, Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association



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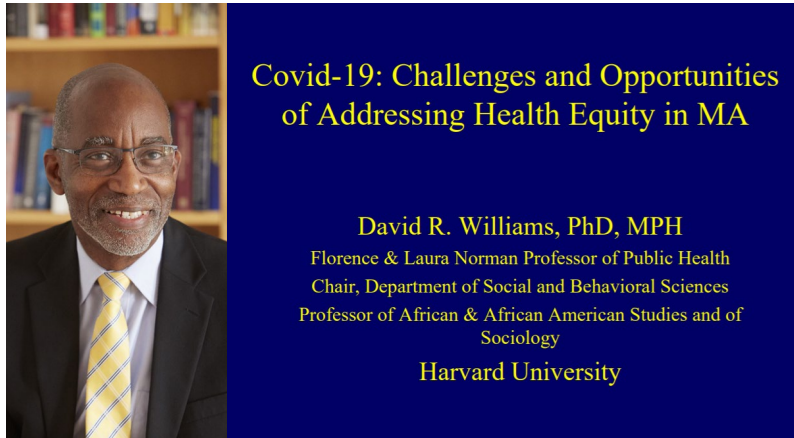
- Welcome by Executive Director David Seltz
- **Executive Director's Report**
 - Health Equity
 - Advisory Council Reappointment
 - 2021 Meeting Schedule
 - New Publications
 - Data Summary: Impact of COVID-19 on Health Care Spending and Costs
 - Cost-Effective, Coordinated Care for Caregivers and Substance Exposed Newborns (C4SEN) Investment Program
- Discussion



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Recap: 2020 Health Care Cost Trends Hearing



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities of Addressing Health Equity in MA
Dr. David Williams

SPOTLIGHT VIDEO

Healing Together: Voices of the Commonwealth During the COVID-19 Pandemic



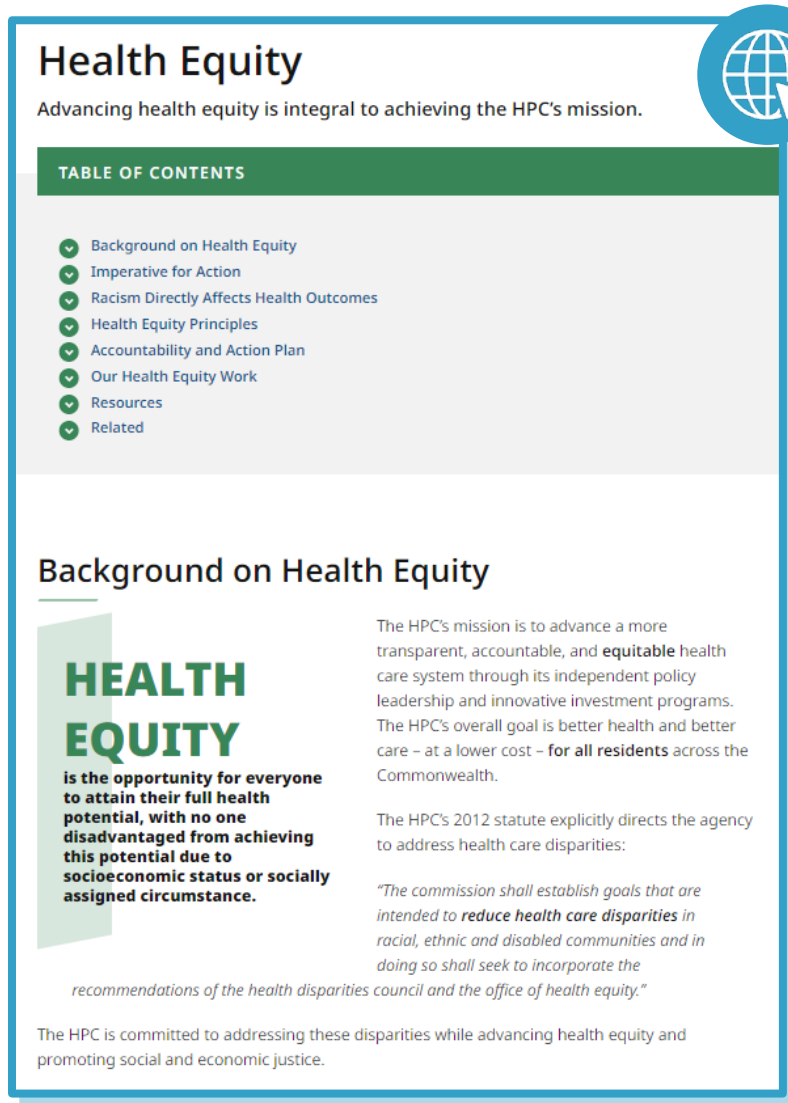
Thank you to the Advisory Council members who connected us with the inspiring individuals featured in this video!

Eliminating health inequities is integral to achieving the HPC's mission.



*The HPC's mission is to advance a more transparent, accountable, and **equitable** health care system through its independent policy leadership and innovative investment programs. The HPC's overall goal is better health and better care – at a lower cost – **for all residents** across the Commonwealth*

New Health Equity Webpage



Health Equity

Advancing health equity is integral to achieving the HPC's mission.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Background on Health Equity
- Imperative for Action
- Racism Directly Affects Health Outcomes
- Health Equity Principles
- Accountability and Action Plan
- Our Health Equity Work
- Resources
- Related

Background on Health Equity

HEALTH EQUITY is the opportunity for everyone to attain their full health potential, with no one disadvantaged from achieving this potential due to socioeconomic status or socially assigned circumstance.

The HPC's mission is to advance a more transparent, accountable, and **equitable** health care system through its independent policy leadership and innovative investment programs. The HPC's overall goal is better health and better care – at a lower cost – for all residents across the Commonwealth.

The HPC's 2012 statute explicitly directs the agency to address health care disparities:

*“The commission shall establish goals that are intended to **reduce health care disparities** in racial, ethnic and disabled communities and in doing so shall seek to incorporate the recommendations of the health disparities council and the office of health equity.”*

The HPC is committed to addressing these disparities while advancing health equity and promoting social and economic justice.

The HPC is excited to share its new dedicated [Health Equity webpage](#).

On this page, you will find:

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Advisory Council Background and Reappointment

BACKGROUND ON THE HPC'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

- 1 Convened in 2013 with a body of **30+ diverse health care leaders**.
- 2 Membership is assessed **every two years** and the current term ends on December 31, 2020. The next term will run from **January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022**. Existing members may be reappointed at the discretion of the HPC.
- 3 Meetings **enhance the HPC's robust policy discussions** by allowing for varied perspectives on the issues facing the market.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE AGENCY'S WORK BY

- 1 Advising on and providing specific input towards the **HPC's research and policy initiatives**, ensuring the consideration of diverse perspectives;
- 2 Contributing feedback and setting priorities for **investment and certification programs**;
- 3 Facilitating direct communication between HPC staff, HPC Board members, and a broad distribution of **health care industry participants and stakeholders**; and
- 4 Serving as a network for **communicating the HPC's mission and work** to a larger community.

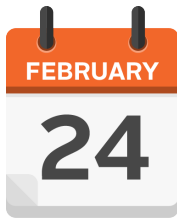


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2021 Meeting Schedule

Advisory Council meetings are at 12:00 PM unless otherwise indicated. All meetings will be held virtually until further notice.



Wednesday
February 24



Wednesday
September 29



Wednesday
May 12



Wednesday
December 8

The HPC's full 2021 public meeting schedule will be released soon.



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In Review: HPC Publications Released in 2020



2019 Health Care Cost Trends Report
(February)

DataPoints Issue 16: The Doctor Will
(Virtually) See You Now (March)



HPC Policy Brief: The Nurse Practitioner
Workforce and its Role in the
Massachusetts Health Care Delivery
System (May)

Out of Network Billing in Massachusetts
Chartpack (May)



SHIFT-Care Challenge Awardee Profiles
(June)

DataPoints Issue 17: Changes in the
Massachusetts Physician Market: Data from
the Massachusetts Registration of Provider
Organizations (MA-RPO) Program (June)



Prescription Drug Coupon Study (July)



CHART Playbook (September)

Telemedicine Pilot Program Impact Brief
(September)



CHART Investment Program: Phase 2
Evaluation Report (September)

Policy Brief: Serious Illness Care in
Massachusetts: Differences in care received
at the end of life by race and ethnicity
(September)



Accountable Care Organizations in
Massachusetts: Profiles of the 2019 HPC-
Certified ACOs (October)

DataPoints Issue 18: HPC-Certified
Accountable Care Organizations in
Massachusetts (October)



Telemedicine Pilot Investment Program
Evaluation Report (November)

New: Telemedicine Pilot Investment Program Evaluation Report

The **Telemedicine Pilot Investment Program Evaluation Report** evaluates the successes and challenges faced by the four awardee organizations that received \$1.7 million in funding to expand access to behavioral health care.

Heywood
Hospital



SCHOOL-BASED telemedicine
Target population: **ADOLESCENTS**

Pediatric
Physicians
Organization
at Children's



PEDIATRICIAN-BASED telemedicine
Target population: **CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

Riverside
Community
Care, Inc.



HOME-BASED telemedicine
Target population: **HOMEBOUND OLDER ADULTS**

UMass
Memorial
Medical
Center



HOSPITAL-BASED telemedicine
Target population: **PATIENTS WITH SUD**



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Summary: Impact of COVID-19 on Health Care Utilization and Spending in Massachusetts

Throughout the course of the pandemic, the HPC has continuously examined data sources including industry reports on utilization trends, unique survey data of provider practices, and special reports from the Center for Health Insurance and Analysis from participating Massachusetts providers to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on health care spending and utilization in Massachusetts and across the country. A [compendium of findings](#) is available on the HPC's website at www.mass.gov/hpc.

- Health care **utilization and spending dropped between 30% – 50%** during spring 2020, with larger drops for more discretionary care. As of winter 2020, use of care has resumed gradually, but remains below expected levels for many types of care. Telehealth has contributed to greater utilization in certain service categories (e.g. routine behavioral health care).
- Between February and September of 2020, **employment in health care** declined 1.2% in hospitals, 3.6% in physician offices and 9% in home health care and nursing facilities.
- Many Massachusetts hospitals reported **significantly negative** total operating margins in March and April of 2020, but moderate **positive margins by July**, with the benefit of limited state/federal COVID-relief funds. *The annual financial impact on hospitals is still unknown and there is variation among hospitals in their financial performance and the amount of COVID-relief funds received.*
- The three largest Massachusetts health insurers reported **significant financial gains** in the second and third quarters of 2020 relative to 2019. *The annual financial impact on health plans is still unknown.*
- Between March and September of 2020, enrollment in private insurance coverage dropped 2.1% (-83k) while primary **coverage through MassHealth grew 9.9% (+115k).**
- Provider practices report significant **growth in telehealth** adoption, but also report high levels of **stress, burnout, and concern for their patients' mental and physical health status.**



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C4SEN extends the impact of the HPC's previous investments to support Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN).



During pregnancy
(prenatal care)



Post-delivery and
during inpatient care



Post-discharge to six
months post-partum



Beyond six months
post-discharge

Previous HPC Investment Programs: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Investment Opportunity, Moms Do Care Initiatives (funded by SAMHSA and HPC)

Cost-Effective, Coordinated Care for Caregivers and Substance Exposed Newborns (C4SEN)

Support **Massachusetts providers** in implementing models of care and services that better address **medical, behavioral, and social needs** of **substance exposed newborns and their families** beyond the hospital, after discharge, and into outpatient follow-up care.

Responding to the Current Environment: COVID and Health Equity



COVID-19

- COVID-19 has **both exacerbated the opioid crisis and created opportunities** to improve treatment (e.g. buprenorphine initiation and follow-up by video or telephone visit).
- SEN investment program design includes **opportunities to use funds to modify existing practice** to enable greater access (e.g. convert some aspects of the care model from in-person to telemedicine).



Health Equity

- SEN RFP includes specific **language acknowledging health equity as a priority**.
- Requires provision of **Culturally Competent Care that is free of stigma and bias**
- Includes **Principles for Promoting Racial Equity** (from DPH).
- Asks Awardees to collect and analyze data relevant to understanding the target population and any **related health inequities in access to MAT and other services**.

C4SEN Program Structure



\$1.2 Million

The HPC will invest \$1.2 million dollars in the C4SEN Investment Program.



24 Months

The Period of Performance will be 24 months – comprised of a Planning Period of 3 months & an Implementation Period of 21 Months.



4 Awards

The HPC will fund up to 3 DHTF-eligible hospitals up to \$300,000 & 1 other provider organization up to \$300,000.



6 Months

Following the Period of Performance, there will be a 6-month evaluation period where the HPC will conduct an evaluation, and Awardees will participate in evaluation-related activities.

Anticipated C4SEN Investment Program Timeline

2020

November

- RFP issued November 18, 2020
- Begin to collect and track questions, release FAQs

2021

January

- Final day for questions: **January 8**
- Proposals due: **January 22, 3:00 PM**

February & March

- Review proposals and select awardees

April

- Announce awardees: **April 7**
- Begin contracting

July

- Program launch



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Reflections on 2020 and Priorities for 2021



Thank you!



Contact Us

[Mass.Gov/HPC](https://www.mass.gov/HPC)

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