



MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

Health Policy Commission

Advisory Council

February 24, 2021



MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

AGENDA

- **Welcome and Introductions: 2021-2022 Advisory Council**
- Executive Director's Report
- Discussion: Interim COVID-19 Impact Study
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 12

Welcome HPC Advisory Council Members!

Lissette Blondet, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

Kim Brooks, Chief Operating Officer, Senior Living, Hebrew SeniorLife

Richard Buckley, Vice President of Corporate Affairs for North America, AstraZeneca

Michael Caljouw, Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield MA

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

JD Chesloff, Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Dr. Cheryl Clark, Director of Health Equity Research and Intervention, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Michael Curry, President and CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Ronald Dunlap, Cardiologist and Past President, Massachusetts Medical Society

Audrey Gasteier, Chief of Policy and Strategy, Massachusetts Health Connector

Bonny Gilbert, Co-Chair of Healthcare Action Team, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)

Tara Gregorio, President and CEO, Mass Senior Care Association

Lisa Gurgone, Executive Director, Mass Home Care

Jon Hurst, President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts

Pat Kelleher, Executive Director, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts

Colin Killick, Executive Director, Disability Policy Consortium

Ellen LaPointe, CEO, Fenway Health

David Matteodo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems

Dr. Danna Mauch, President and CEO, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health

Cheryl Pascucci, Family Nurse Practitioner, Baystate Franklin Medical Center

Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association

Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO, Massachusetts Association of Health Plans

Christopher Philbin, Vice President of Office of Government Affairs, Partners HealthCare System

Judith Pare, Director of Nursing, Massachusetts Nurses Association

Amy Rosenthal, Executive Director, Health Care For All

Christine Schuster, President and CEO, Emerson Hospital

Dr. Steven Strongwater, President and CEO, Atrius Health

Assistant Secretary Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Matthew Veno, Executive Director, Group Insurance Commission

Steven Walsh, President and CEO, Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association

Elizabeth Wills-O'Gilvie, Chair, Springfield Food Policy Council

Deborah Wilson, President and CEO, Lawrence General Hospital



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Hearing on the Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark: March 25, 2021

Chapter 224 prescribes the formula that the HPC must use to establish the benchmark each year

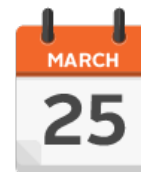
“For calendar years 2018 through 2022, the health care cost growth benchmark shall be equal to the growth rate of potential gross state product...minus 0.5 per cent”

Since 2018, the HPC has had limited authority to modify the benchmark if an adjustment is warranted

“For calendar years 2018 through 2022... the board of the commission may modify the health care cost growth benchmark...” between -0.5 and PGSP.



FEATURED SPEAKER:
Dr. Michael E. Chernew
*Department of Health Care Policy
Harvard Medical School*



Thursday, March 25
12:00 PM



Livestreamed on the
[HPC's YouTube channel](#)

To sign up for live testimony or submit written testimony, please email
Benjamin.A.Thomas@mass.gov

The HPC's Health Equity Work



STYLE GUIDE

HPC staff are developing a **Health Equity Practice and Style Guide** to provide **common principles and guidance** for agency research and communications.



DATA COLLECTION

The HPC is **aligning with CHIA on data collection and goal setting for new data and research** to advance health equity work.



NEW METRICS

The HPC intends to set **agency-wide measurable goals to track progress on our efforts to promote health equity** and we expect to share those publicly later this year.



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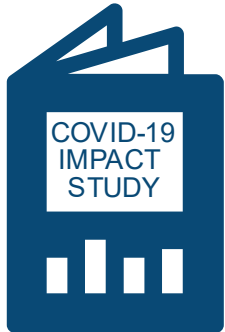
COVID-19 Impact Study Legislation

An Act Promoting A Resilient Health Care System that Puts Patients First was signed into law on January 1, 2021. It charges the HPC, in collaboration with CHIA, with conducting an analysis and issuing a report on the **effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Commonwealth's health care delivery system**, including on the accessibility, quality, and cost of health care services and the financial position of health care entities in the **short-term**, and the implications of those effects on **long-term policy considerations**.

An interim report is due **April 2021** and a final report is due **January 2022**.

- 1** An assessment and detailed **description of the essential components of a robust health care system** and the distribution of services and resources necessary to deliver high-quality care
- 2** An **inventory** and description of the location, distribution, nature and sustainability of all health care services, and resources in the commonwealth serving residents from birth to death
- 3** An analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the **health care workforce** and on health care provider efforts to plan and invest in worker readiness
- 4** An examination of the **closures of services** classified as essential by the department of public health or other relevant agency
- 5** In consultation with the Office of Health Equity in the Department of Public Health, an **analysis of health care disparities** that exist in the commonwealth due to economic, geographic, racial or other factors

Preliminary COVID-19 Impact Study Outline for Discussion



- I. Spending trends
- II. Financial impact: Current impact and projections for long-term impact
- III. Provider markets: Indicators of closures and consolidation
- IV. Utilization Trends
 - I. Utilization by sector
 - II. Preventative care
 - III. Behavioral health
 - IV. Telehealth
- V. Analysis of health care disparities
- VI. Impact on health-related social needs, especially food insecurity
- VII. Health care workforce
- VIII. Inventory of services
- IX. Essential components of health care system

Anticipated Timeline and Activities for COVID-19 Impact Study

Interim Report: Feb to April 2021

Ongoing Analysis: April to Jan 2022

● **Consultation with initial set of stakeholders**

- **Large scale effort to gain stakeholder and expert input**
- **Ongoing data acquisition**
- **Update data analysis to reflect current developments**
- **Opportunity for additional publications on specific topics**

Discussion Questions: HPC's COVID-19 Impact Study

- 1 A new law directs the HPC to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health care system in Massachusetts, including effects on costs, quality, access, market dynamics, and the financial position and outlook of health care entities. Within these broad areas, are there **other topics** and/or **particularly impacted industry sectors, communities, or patient populations** that you would recommend the HPC prioritize in the examination?
- 2 The law also directs the HPC to release an Interim Report this spring. Recognizing that the pandemic is ongoing, and real-time data and information are limited, what policy areas would you recommend the HPC **prioritize for near-term examination**?
- 3 The HPC will also examine the **long-term policy implications** of the pandemic for the health care system. Are there particular questions you would recommend the HPC prioritize in order to **advance the shared goal of a more transparent, affordable, and equitable health care system**? Where can the HPC provide the greatest value?
- 4 The law mandates the HPC include **an examination of health disparities** in consultation with the Department of Public Health and its Office of Health Equity. Where should the HPC focus our efforts to advance the goal of health equity in the Commonwealth?
- 5 In conducting this research, **the HPC is committed to incorporating the perspectives of a range of diverse stakeholders**, including those people, communities, and sectors disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Are there any specific strategies or approaches you would recommend to achieve this goal? How can your organization contribute to increasing representation from diverse perspectives?



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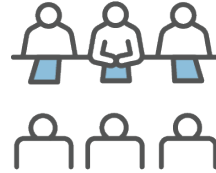
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Upcoming 2021 Meetings and Contact Information



BOARD MEETINGS

**March 25 –
Benchmark Hearing**
April 14
July 14
September 15
November 17



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 2
October 6
December 15



SPECIAL EVENTS

ADVISORY COUNCIL
May 12
September 29
December 8



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