



Meeting of the Advisory Council

February 8, 2023



Agenda



CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and Introductions: 2023 – 2024 Advisory Council

Discussion: 2023 Agenda for Action

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Agenda



Call to Order



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: 2023 – 2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL

Discussion: 2023 Agenda for Action

Upcoming Meetings and Events

In 2012, Massachusetts became the first state to establish an HPC and a target for sustainable health care spending growth.



CHAPTER 224 OF THE ACTS OF 2012



An Act Improving the Quality of Health Care and **Reducing Costs** through Increased **Transparency, Efficiency, and Innovation.**

GOAL



Reduce total health care spending growth to meet the **Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark**, which is set by the HPC and tied to the state's overall economic growth.

VISION



A transparent and **innovative** healthcare system that is **accountable** for producing **better health** and **better care** at a **lower cost** for all the people of the Commonwealth.

The HPC's Mission and Goal



*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 employs four core strategies to realize its vision of better care, better health, and lower costs for all people of the Commonwealth.



MARKET MONITOR

Monitor and intervene when necessary to assure market performance

CONVENE

Bring together stakeholder community to influence their actions on a topic or problem



RESEARCH AND REPORT

Investigate, analyze, and report trends and insights

PARTNER

Engage with individuals, groups, and organizations to achieve mutual goals

The work of the HPC is overseen by an 11-member Board of Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and State Auditor.



GOVERNOR

Maura Healey



- Chair with expertise in health care delivery
- Primary care physician
- Expertise in health plan administration and finance
- Secretary of Administration and Finance
- Secretary of Health and Human Services

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Andrea Campbell



- Expertise as a health economist
- Expertise in behavioral health
- Expertise in health care consumer advocacy

STATE AUDITOR

Diana DiZoglio



- Expertise in innovative medicine
- Expertise in representing the health care workforce
- Expertise as a purchaser of health insurance

HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION BOARD

Deborah Devaux, Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Seltz



ADVISORY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND ON THE HPC'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

- 1 First convened in 2013 with a broad cross-section of health care stakeholders, advocates, policymakers, and business leaders
- 2 Meetings enhance the HPC's robust policy discussions by allowing for varied perspectives on the issues facing the market.
- 3 Members are appointed to two-year terms. Today marks the first meeting of the 2023-2024 Advisory Council.

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.
- 4 Serving as a network for communicating the HPC's mission and work to a larger community.

Advisory Council Membership



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

Aimee Brewer, President and CEO, Sturdy Memorial Hospital

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

Dr. Jeanette Callahan, Pediatrician, Cambridge Health Alliance; Medical Director, Department of Youth Services Northeast Region Health Services, Justice Resource Institute

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

JD Chesloff, Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Dr. Cheryl Clark, Associate Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care, 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

Dr. Tarek Elsayy, President, Optum Northeast and Midwest, Optum

Audrey Gasteier, Acting Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Connector

Tara Gregorio, President and CEO, Mass Senior Care Association

Eric Gulko, President, Innovo Benefits; Legislative Chair and Vice President, National Association of Brokers and Insurance Professionals

Susan J. Hernandez, CNM, MSN, FACNM, Mass General Brigham; MA ACNM Legislative Co-Chair

Jon Hurst, President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts

Colin Killick, Executive Director, Disability Policy Consortium

Jake Krilovich, Executive Director, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts

Ellen LaPointe, CEO, Fenway Health

Juan Fernando Lopera, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Beth Israel Lahey Health

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

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

Patricia McMullin, Executive Director, Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals

Nicole Obi, President and CEO, Black Economic Council of Massachusetts

Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association

Krina Patel, Head of U.S. State and Local Government Affairs, Biogen

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

Julie Pinkham, Executive Director, Massachusetts Nurses Association

Dr. Myisha Rodrigues, Executive Director, NAMI Massachusetts

Amy Rosenthal, Executive Director, Health Care For All

Christine Schuster, President and CEO, Emerson Hospital

Zach Stanley, Executive Vice President, MassBio

Matthew Veno, Executive Director, Group Insurance Commission

Steven Walsh, President and CEO, Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association and previously Massachusetts Council of Community Hospitals

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

Highlighting denotes new members

New Advisory Council Members



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Dr. Jeanette Callahan, Pediatrician, Cambridge Health Alliance; Medical Director, Department of Youth Services Northeast Region Health Services, Justice Resource Institute

Dr. Tarek Elsayy, President, Optum Northeast and Midwest, Optum

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Dr. Myisha Rodrigues, Executive Director, NAMI Massachusetts

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Welcome And Introductions: 2023 – 2024 Advisory Council



DISCUSSION: 2023 AGENDA FOR ACTION

Upcoming Meetings and Events

HPC Agenda for Action (January – July 2023)



To kick off 2023, the HPC is pursuing an ambitious action plan to reduce health care cost growth, promote affordability, and advance equity, in addition to ongoing workstreams and responsibilities.

This comprehensive plan will prioritize disseminating data-driven insights and policy recommendations to address the critical challenges facing the health care system today: the workforce crisis, high costs, and persistent health inequities.

- 1 Bolster the HPC's Cost Containment Activities**
- 2 Address Health Care Workforce Challenges and Identify Solutions**
- 3 Advance Health Equity**
- 4 Enhance Pharmaceutical Pricing Transparency and Accountability**
- 5 Reduce Unnecessary Administrative Complexity**
- 6 Upcoming Topics of Actionable Research**

1 Bolster the HPC's Cost Containment Activities

- a. Work with the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Legislature to expand levers for cost control as described in the HPC's 2022 Health Care Cost Trends Report, specifically prioritizing:
 - i. Legislative action to strengthen the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) process, the HPC's primary mechanism for holding providers, payers, and other health care actors responsible for health care spending growth;
 - ii. Legislative action to constrain excessive price levels, variation, and growth for health care services and pharmaceuticals; and
 - iii. Legislative action to hold health insurance plans accountable for affordability and ensure that any savings that accrue to health plans are passed along to businesses and consumers.
- b. Evolve approach to benchmark accountability in 2023 to account for COVID-19 disruptions in utilization.
- c. Continue scrutiny of payer and provider spending performance, including by working with CHIA to enhance data reporting, and by conducting a robust evaluation of MGB's PIP and its impact on spending growth.
- d. Continue scrutiny of provider market changes, including retrospective reviews (e.g., a five-year post-merger report on the creation of Beth Israel Lahey Health.)
- e. Update past research into the extent of provider price variation in the market, including examining the impact of COVID-19 on utilization of higher- and lower-priced providers.
- f. Continue collaboration with sister agencies to enhance data reporting and with other states on how to optimize the impact of health care cost growth targets and implement complementary strategies to reduce spending growth.

2 Address Health Care Workforce Challenges and Identify Solutions

- a. Issue new HPC report and recommendations: *Workforce Challenges and Policy Recommendations in Massachusetts*.
- b. Hold special event to convene stakeholders to discuss workforce challenges and recommended solutions.
- c. Continue to support and promote innovative care models that leverage non-traditional and complementary health care workers (e.g., doulas, recovery coaches, community health workers).

3 Advance Health Equity

- a. Issue new HPC report: *Supply, Access, and Affordability: How Health System Factors Perpetuate Disparities*.
- b. Strengthen health equity standards within the ACO Certification Program.
- c. Support the adoption and implementation of recommended data standards for collection of race, ethnicity, language, disability status, sexual orientation, and sex.
- d. Design new HPC grant opportunities to reduce identified disparities or otherwise advance equity that build off experience in maternal health, health-related social needs, and other past equity focused work.
- e. Partner and align with public and private stakeholders (e.g., the Health Equity Compact) on shared goals.
- f. Evaluate staff needs to support HPC health equity work.

4 Enhance Pharmaceutical Pricing Transparency and Accountability

- a. Collaborate with MassHealth on the drug pricing review process to support their supplemental rebate negotiations.
- b. Research and present/publish on:
 - i. Prescription drug prices in Massachusetts as compared to international pricing and policies to align prices with value
 - ii. Policies to reduce out-of-pocket burden for patients who need certain high-cost drugs
 - iii. Spending trends and costs associated with high outpatient spending

5 Reduce Unnecessary Administrative Complexity

- a. Partner with stakeholders and the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation (NEHI) to promote prior authorization automation.
- b. Identify other priority areas for streamlining, simplification, or standardization and convene stakeholders to develop and advance solutions.
- c. Participate on new Special Commission to Develop Common Medical Necessity Criteria in Behavioral Health.
- d. Continue staff support and policy leadership of the Quality Measurement Alignment Taskforce (QMAT), including convening a workgroup to advise on advancing electronic clinical quality measurement.

6 Upcoming Topics of Actionable Research

- a. Issue new HPC Report: *Telehealth Use in the Commonwealth and Policy Recommendations*
- b. Issue new HPC Policy Paper: *Consolidation of the Pediatric Health Care Market in Massachusetts*
- c. Issue new HPC Policy Paper: *Options and Implications for Capping Provider Prices*
- d. Research impact of risk adjustment on spending trends.
- e. Expand research on behavioral health including upcoming publications on behavioral health managers, ED boarding, and updated opioid-related hospitalizations in Massachusetts.
- f. Explore trends in payments for emergency ambulance services.
- g. Investigate role of private equity investments in Massachusetts health care.

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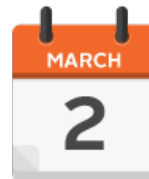


UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

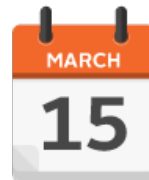
Upcoming Public Meetings



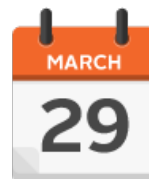
Wednesday, February 15th
MOAT and CDT Policy Committee Meetings



Thursday, March 2nd
Office of Patient Protection (OPP) Public Hearing



Wednesday, March 15th
Benchmark Hearing



Wednesday, March 29th
HPC Special Event: *Building a Robust Workforce in Massachusetts – Findings, Challenges, and Opportunities*

Market Oversight and Transparency (MOAT)

- Research Presentation: Emergency Ground Ambulance Utilization and Payment Rates in Massachusetts
- Assessing and Addressing Drug Prices in Massachusetts
- Guest Presentation: Reducing Administrative Complexity: Automation of Prior Authorization – The Network for Excellence in Health Innovation

Care Delivery Transformation (CDT)

- Guest Presentation: MassHealth’s 2023 ACO Program – Ryan Schwarz, Chief, Office of Payment and Care Delivery Innovation
- HPC ACO Certification Program: Updates and Discussion of Health Equity Standard

**All public meetings are livestreamed on the HPC’s [YouTube Channel](#).
MOAT begins at 9:30 AM and CDT begins at 11:00 AM.**

2023 Hearing on the Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark



Wednesday, March 15 at 12:00 PM
Gardner Auditorium
Massachusetts State House

Chapter 224 prescribes the formula that the HPC must use to establish the benchmark each year. Since 2018, the HPC has had limited authority to modify the benchmark if an adjustment is “reasonably warranted.”

For the years 2023 through 2032, the health care cost growth benchmark will be set equal to potential gross state product (PGSP), or 3.6%, unless the HPC determines that an adjustment to the benchmark is reasonably warranted. In that case, the HPC Board may choose to modify the benchmark to any amount.

Please email Ashley Caunter, HPC Government Affairs Manager, to sign up for public testimony: ashley.caunter@mass.gov



SAVE THE DATE!

Building a Robust Health Care Workforce in Massachusetts: Findings, Challenges, and Opportunities

March 29, 2023

2023 Public Meeting Calendar



- JANUARY -

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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- FEBRUARY -

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- MARCH -

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- APRIL -

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- MAY -

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- JUNE -

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- AUGUST -

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- SEPTEMBER -

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- OCTOBER -

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- NOVEMBER -

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- DECEMBER -

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BOARD MEETINGS

- Wednesday, January 25
- Wednesday, April 12
- Wednesday, June 7
- Wednesday, July 12
- Wednesday, September 13
- Wednesday, December 13

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Tuesday, January 24 (ANF, 2:00 PM)
- Wednesday, February 15
- Wednesday, May 10
- Monday, July 10 (ANF, 2:00 PM)
- Wednesday, October 4

ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Wednesday, February 8
- Wednesday, May 24
- Wednesday, September 20
- Wednesday, December 6

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Thursday, March 2 - OPP Regulation Hearing
- Wednesday, March 15 - Benchmark Hearing
- Wednesday, March 29 - Health Care Workforce Event
- Wednesday, November 1 - Cost Trends Hearing



January Board Meeting Recap

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) Board met yesterday, **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**. A recording of the meeting can be found on the HPC's [YouTube Channel](#). The [meeting materials](#) are available on the HPC's website and a press release is available [here](#).

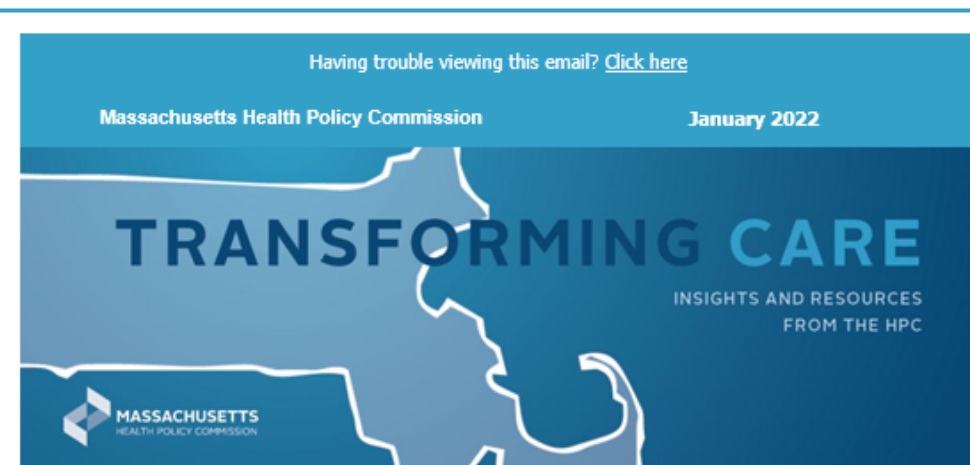
During the meeting, the HPC's Board welcomed three new commissioners – primary care physician and City of Worcester Commissioner for Health and Human Services **Dr. Matilde Castiel**, **Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz**, and **Acting Health and Human Services Secretary Mary Beckman**, established new committee membership, and voted to re-appoint Commissioner Martin Cohen as Vice Chair.

To kick off 2023, the HPC outlined **six** policy priorities and activity areas. The agency is pursuing an ambitious action plan to reduce health care cost growth, promote affordability, and advance equity, in addition to ongoing workstreams and responsibilities. This comprehensive plan will prioritize disseminating data-driven insights and policy recommendations to address the critical challenges facing the health care system today: the workforce crisis, high costs, and persistent health inequities.

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4. Enhance Pharmaceutical Pricing Transparency and Accountability
5. Reduce Unnecessary Administrative Complexity
6. Upcoming Topics of Actionable Research

Executive Director David Seltz previewed two upcoming publications on the impact of COVID-19 on the health care workforce and factors impacting disparities in health care, and commissioners voted to issue a proposed update to the Office of Patient Protection's (OPP) regulation on health insurance consumer protection and closed out the 2022 Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) review cycle.

Notably, the Board approved the release of the HPC's latest research publication, *Telehealth Use in the Commonwealth and Policy Recommendations*.



This edition of the *Transforming Care* newsletter highlights key takeaways from the final session of the Complex Care Learning Series webinars cohosted with the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health, and features the newly-updated profiles of the 14 Health Policy Commission (HPC)-certified ACOs, the four awardees of the Coordinated Care for Caregivers and Substance Exposed Newborns (C4SEN) Investment Program, as well as other recent publications.

Let us know if there are care delivery transformation topics or work in the Commonwealth that you would like the HPC to showcase in this newsletter. We would love to hear from you!

Email us at caredeliverytransformation@mass.gov.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FINAL SESSION OF THE COMPLEX CARE LEARNING SERIES

Session 1
Identifying Target Populations

Session 2
Client Enrollment & Engagement

Session 3
Building & Sustaining Complex Care Teams

Session 4
Evaluating Impact & Measuring Success

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings



BOARD

April 12
June 7
July 12
September 13
December 13



Mass.gov/HPC



COMMITTEE

February 15
May 10
July 10
October 4



HPC-info@mass.gov



ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 24
September 20
December 6



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SPECIAL EVENTS

March 2
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March 15
Benchmark Hearing

March 29
Building a Robust Health Care Workforce in Massachusetts

November 1
Cost Trends Hearing



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