



HPC Advisory Council Meeting

May 14, 2026



Agenda



Call to Order



UP NEXT: Welcome and Introductions: 2026-2027 Advisory Council

Executive Director's Report

Discussion: 2026 Priority Topics

Upcoming Meetings

Adjourn

Advisory Council 2026 – 2027 Term



Christopher Andreoli, MD, CEO, Optum New England

Caitlin Beresin, Director, U.S. State Affairs, Johnson & Johnson*

Aimee Brewer, President and CEO, Sturdy Health

Patrick Brown, Director of Policy, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council*

Christopher Carlozzi, Senior State Director - North Region, National Federation of Independent Business

JD Chesloff, President and CEO, Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Cheryl Clark, MD, Associate Chief for Equity Research and Strategic Partnerships, Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Executive Director and Senior Vice President, Institute for Health Equity, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

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

Joe-Ann Fergus, PhD, Executive Director, Massachusetts Nurses Association*

Juan Fernando Lopera, Chief Community and Health Impact Officer, Beth Israel Lahey Health

Valerie Fleishman, Executive Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association*

Timothy Foley, Vice President, Government Relations, UMass Memorial Health*

Mimi Gardner, Vice President, Chief Equity Officer, NeighborHealth*

Christopher Garofalo, MD, Owner Physician, Family Medicine Associates of South Attleboro, MMS Member*

Katherine Gergen Barnett, MD, Vice Chair of Primary Care Innovation and Transformation; Primary Care Provider, Boston Medical Center*

Tara Gregorio, President and CEO, Massachusetts Senior Care Association

Jon Hurst, President and CEO, Retailers Association of Massachusetts

Jake Krilovich, CEO, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts

Danna Mauch, PhD, President and CEO, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health

Eileen McAnneny, President, Employer Coalition on Health*

Nancy McGovern, Director of Healthcare and Retirement Advocacy, Mass Retirees Association*

Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Alliance

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

Lauren Peters, President, Massachusetts Payer-Provider Partnership (MP3)*

Christine Schuster, President and CEO, Emerson Health

Alex Sheff, Senior Director, Policy & Government Relations, Health Care For All*

Joseph M. Shields, CEO, Transparency-Rx*

Monica Vohra, MD, Chief Medical Officer, DotHouse Health Center*

Harry Weissman, Executive Director, Disability Policy Consortium

Erika Wilkinson, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Steven Winn, President and CEO, Behavioral Health Network, Inc.

Ex Officio Members

Audrey Gasteier, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Connector

Andrew Jackmauh, Executive Director, Center for Health Information and Analysis*

Matthew Veno, Executive Director, Group Insurance Commission

*Indicates Advisory Council Member is new for the 2026 – 2027 term.

Background on the HPC Advisory Council



- The Advisory Council, first convened in 2013, comprises a broad cross-section of health care stakeholders, advocates, policymakers, and business leaders.
- Members are appointed to two-year terms by the HPC Executive Director.
- The Advisory Council meets periodically to discuss the most important health policy issues of the day and advise the HPC on its mission to make health care more affordable, transparent, and equitable for all residents of the Commonwealth.
- The varied perspectives offered by Council members enhance the HPC's robust policy deliberations on issues facing the market.

How the Advisory Council Supports the Work of the HPC

1

Advising and providing specific input on 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 and health care industry leaders, advocates, and stakeholders.

4

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

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In 2012, Massachusetts became the first state with a measurable goal to promote 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, innovative, and equitable health care 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 Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) is committed to better health and better care – at a lower cost – **for all residents** of the Commonwealth. Through market oversight, data-driven analysis, and independent policy insights, our goal is to make health care more **affordable**, **transparent**, and **equitable**.

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

GOVERNOR

Maura Healey



- Chair with expertise in health care administration, finance, and management
- Expertise representing hospitals or hospital health systems
- Expertise in health plan administration and finance
- Registered nurse with expertise in care delivery innovation
- Expertise in representing the health care workforce. Selected from list of nominees by the President of the Senate
- Expertise in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, or medical devices. Selected from a list of nominees by the Speaker of the House
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Commissioner of Insurance

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Andrea Campbell



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

HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION BOARD

Deborah Devaux, Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Seltz



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

- Issuing data-informed, actionable **policy recommendations** to improve health care affordability and guide the future of health care reform in Massachusetts
- Setting the annual **health care cost growth benchmark**
- Assessing and enforcing **provider and payer performance** relative to the benchmark
- Analyzing the impact of **health care market transactions** on cost, quality, access, and equity
- Developing a hub of expertise on **pharmaceutical drug policy** in the Commonwealth
- Evaluating the **supply and distribution of health care resources** using robust data analysis and strategic planning to promote the alignment of resources with population needs
- Conducting research and making data-informed policy recommendations to strengthen the **health care workforce** in Massachusetts, especially the behavioral health workforce
- Creating care delivery standards for **Accountable Care Organizations**
- Supporting the development and expansion of care delivery models through **innovative investment programs**
- Protect patient consumer rights by administering **independent external reviews** of insurer medical necessity denials and open enrollment waivers

In 2025, Chapters 342 and 343 of the Acts of 2024 were signed into law bringing significant changes to the HPC's existing priorities and statutory authority.

An Act relative to pharmaceutical access, costs, and transparency

- Improved state **oversight of the pharmaceutical industry**, including pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)
- **Capped out-of-pocket costs** for drugs to treat asthma, diabetes, and certain common heart conditions
- Established the **Office of Pharmaceutical Policy and Analysis** (OPPA) within the HPC

An Act enhancing the market review process

- Strengthened state **oversight of private equity** investment in health care
- Reinvigorated **statewide health planning** with increased data collection and agency coordination
- Established the **Office of Health Resource Planning** (OHRP) within the HPC



Changes to the HPC Advisory Council in Recent Legislation

- Section 4 of Chapter 342 of the Acts of 2024, *An Act Relative to Pharmaceutical Access, Costs and Transparency*, **adds pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and pharmacy benefit managers** to the list of diverse perspectives reflected in the HPC's Advisory Council.
- Section 25 of Chapter 343 of the Acts of 2024, *An Act Relative to Enhancing Market Oversight*, **directs the newly created Office of Health Resource Planning (OHRP) to consult with the HPC Advisory Council** on focused assessments of health care resource supply, distribution and capacity in relation to projected need.
- Following the passage of these laws, the HPC reconstituted the Advisory Council via a new application process, and members were appointed in March 2026.



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In its 2025 Cost Trends Report, the HPC recommended a call to action on health care affordability.

In 2026, policymakers and health care leaders should **recommit to the health care cost growth benchmark** and **convene to develop a consensus on a comprehensive set of reforms**, consistent with the long-standing Massachusetts values of shared responsibility and shared sacrifice, for a greater public good. **Massachusetts should once again be the national leader in reimagining our health care system from the status quo to one capable of delivering affordable, accessible, and equitable care for all residents.**

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITY

The Commonwealth should take action to reduce these costs by adopting policies that reduce and standardize common administrative tasks, prioritizing those that impede care for patients and burden primary care clinicians and support staff.



HEALTH CARE PRICES

Prices continue to be a primary driver of health care spending growth in Massachusetts and there is persistent, significant variation in prices between providers for the same sets of services without commensurate differences in quality. The Commonwealth should implement policy solutions that seek to limit excessive prices for services above a fair, reasonable threshold or to moderate price growth to a sustainable rate.



PHARMACEUTICAL SPENDING

Net of rebates, pharmacy spending per enrollee grew an average of **8.6% per year from 2019 to 2023**, contributing significantly to the state's overall health care cost growth rate. In addition to considering policies implemented by other states, the Commonwealth should consider recommendations developed in the coming year by OPPA and DOI.



LOW VALUE CARE AND AVOIDABLE UTILIZATION

Providers and payers in the Commonwealth should be encouraged to adopt strategies to reduce low value care and avoidable emergency department (ED) use, ED boarding, and readmissions, and shift lower acuity care to the most appropriate setting. Fundamental to the success of these efforts is to expand access to primary care and behavioral health care.



The HPC is co-chairing the state's Primary Care Task Force, tasked with developing policy recommendations to strengthen and modernize the Commonwealth's primary care system.



Patients are **paying more** than ever for **premiums** and **out-of-pocket costs**. Often, it's hard just to get an appointment. It's really frustrating. It's also unacceptable. It has to change.

I am directing my Administration to **shift healthcare resources** to the front lines. And by that, I mean **primary care**.

We'll drive career training pipelines to **grow the workforce**. I want a whole army of **primary care providers** out there, so when you call for an appointment, you'll get one. You'll get the **affordable care** you need, where and when you need it."

—Governor Maura Healey

Healey-Driscoll Administration's Health Care Affordability Working Group



On January 14, 2026, Governor Maura Healey announced a new working group charged with advancing proposals to reduce health care costs across the system, ultimately reducing costs for people and businesses across the state.



Health care is too difficult and too expensive for far too many people. We are taking the most comprehensive action in the country to make it faster, cheaper and easier to get the care you need. This is a moment of urgency, and today we are bringing together leaders from across health care, business and labor to find every possible step we can take to lower costs and improve health care in Massachusetts.”

— Governor Maura Healey



Discussion Questions



- What policy areas should the HPC focus on in the next two years?
- How can you or your organization contribute to the inform HPC's work on these policy areas?
- What are some specific ways the Advisory Council members can contribute to the HPC's mission over the next two years?

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UP NEXT: UPCOMING MEETINGS

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Upcoming Meetings



Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2026

12:00 – 1:30 PM (Virtual via Zoom)



Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2026

12:00 – 1:30 PM (Virtual via Zoom)