

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PRIMARY CARE ACCESS, DELIVERY, AND PAYMENT TASK FORCE**

**April 8, 2026**

**CO-CHAIRLED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Date of Meeting:** April 8, 2026  
**Start Time:** 11:00 AM  
**End Time:** 1:00 PM

Primary Care Task Force Member	Present?	Vote: Approval of Minutes (Mar. 4, 2026)
Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Co-Chair	Y	Y
David Seltz, Co-Chair	Y	Y
Senator Cindy Friedman	Y	Y
Representative John Lawn	Y	Y
Dr. Wayne Altman	Y	Y
Dr. Laura Black	A	A
Dr. Jennifer Blewett	A	A
Alyson Bracken	Y	Y
Michael Caljouw	Y	Y
Dr. Renee Crichlow	Y	M
Suzanne Curry	Y	Y
Dr. Eric Dickson	Y	Y
Dr. Mark Friedberg	Y	Y
Dr. David Gilchrist	Y	Y
Jon Hurst	Y	2nd
Dr. Stephen Martin	Y	Y
Dr. Judith Melin	Y	Y
Sarah Mills	Y*	
Lora Pellegrini	Y	Y
Dr. Brenda Pring	Y*	
Barbra Rabson	Y	Y
Dr. Ryan Schwarz	Y	Y
Christina Severin	Y	Y
Dr. Barbara Spivak	Y	Y
Caitlin Sullivan	Y	Y
<b>Summary</b>	<b>23 Members Attended</b>	



\*arrived after vote on minutes was taken

(M): Made motion; (2nd): Seconded motion; (ab): Abstained from Vote; (A): Absent from Meeting

## Proceedings

An in-person meeting of the Primary Care Access, Delivery, and Payment Task Force (PCTF) was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2025, beginning at 11:00 AM. A recording of the meeting and the meeting materials are available on the [HPC Website](#).

Participating task force members who attended virtually were Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Dr. Kiame Mahaniah (Co-Chair); Executive Director of Health Policy Commission (HPC), Mr. David Seltz (Co-Chair); Senator Cindy Friedman; Representative John Lawn; Dr. Wayne Altman; Ms. Alyson Bracken; Commissioner of Insurance Michael Caljouw; Dr. Renee Crichlow; Ms. Suzanne Curry; Dr. Eric Dickson; Dr. Mark Friedberg; Dr. David Gilchrist; Mr. Jon Hurst; Dr. Stephen Martin; Dr. Judith Melin; Ms. Sarah Mills; Ms. Lora Pellegrini; Dr. Brenda Pring; Ms. Barbra Rabson; Dr. Ryan Schwarz; Ms. Christina Severin; Dr. Barbara Spivak; and Ms. Caitlin Sullivan.

### ITEM 1: Call to Order

Task Force co-chairs, Mr. David Seltz and Secretary Mahaniah called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM, welcomed members and members of the public viewing the livestream, shared brief opening remarks and reviewed the meeting agenda.

### ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes: March 4, 2026 (VOTE)

Mr. Seltz introduced approval of the minutes from the PCTF meeting on March 4, 2026. Dr. Crichlow made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Gilchrist seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

### ITEM 3: Statutory Deliverable #2: Develop a Standardized Set of Data and Reporting Requirements for Private and Public Payers, Providers and Provider Organizations

HPC's General Counsel, Lois Johnson, reviewed the draft recommendation for PCFT Statutory Deliverable #2, to develop a standardized set of data and reporting requirements for private and public payers, providers and provider organizations. The proposed recommendation builds on the recommendation put forth by PCTF [Statutory Deliverable #4](#) to ensure payment intended for primary care ultimately benefits primary care practices, by proposing attestation, audit, reporting, and contract mechanisms for practices, provider organizations, and payers to track the funds flow of primary care payments to primary care practices.

Task force members engaged in discussion of the draft recommendation. Members acknowledged the variability and complexity of funds flow processes of large health systems and the novelty to the concept of establishing separate primary care contracts as a supplement to the attestation, audit and reporting mechanisms. Members agreed that a recommendation to establish separate primary care contracts should be coupled with a recommendation that separate contracts should not increase total health care expenditure. Members discussed the clinical and financial attestation process for the MassHealth Primary Care Sub-Capitation program, which offers a practical model on best practices and implementation for tracking funds flow. Overall, members agreed that while developing mechanisms for tracking funds flow to primary care practices will be complicated, it is necessary for the urgency of the Commonwealth's current primary care crisis.

Mr. Seltz thanked members for their feedback and told them that the deliverable will be edited for further review. He urged members to continue to reach out with any additional feedback to incorporate in the deliverable.

## **ITEM 4: Statutory Deliverable #5: Assess the Impact of Health Plan Design on Health Equity and Patient Access to Primary Care Services**

Mr. Seltz continued the discussion to focus on PCTF Statutory Deliverable #5, to assess the impact of health plan design on health equity and patient access to primary care services. He introduced Dr. Sasha Albert, Associate Director of the HPC's Research and Cost Trends department to review provisions in proposed legislation related to cost sharing to provide additional policy context for the conversation and to present findings from the HPC's research on trends in cost sharing and its impact on patient access to care.

Following Dr. Albert's presentation, Secretary Mahaniah moderated a discussion. Commissioner Caljouw noted that deductible growth seems to be leveling off, and acknowledged the inverse relationship between deductibles and premiums, and that patients still face uncertainty about the potential for out-of-pocket costs being applied for services delivered in the primary care setting. Members stated that high health care costs have increased the adoption of high deductible health plans and that minimizing cost sharing for primary care services could result in higher premiums.

Members emphasized that high deductibles and cost sharing can result in individuals forgoing care for themselves and their families. Many suggested that excluding deductibles and cost sharing from being applied to primary care services would lead to improved health care outcomes and lower total health care expenditures, as patients would be encouraged to receive preventive services and address health concerns with their primary care clinician.

Overall, members concurred that cost sharing policies significantly impact access to primary care and health equity and that greater transparency, clarification, and predictability for consumers around the application of cost sharing is critical. Mr. Seltz told members that feedback from the discussion would be incorporated into a written draft and shared with members for their review. Secretary Mahaniah thanked members for their comments and turned the floor to Mr. Seltz to review the upcoming meeting schedule and adjourn the meeting.

## **ITEM 5: Statutory Deliverable #6: Monitor and Track the Needs of and Service Delivery to Residents of the Commonwealth**

Mr. Seltz told members that discussion on PCTF Statutory Deliverable #6, to assess the impact of health plan design on health equity and access to primary care services, will take place at the next PCTF meeting on May 5, 2026. He asked members to review the slides detailing the proposed recommendation ahead of the meeting to prepare for the discussion and encouraged members to reach out with additional input on this deliverable in advance.

## **ITEM 7: Upcoming Meetings**

Mr. Seltz reviewed the upcoming task force meeting schedule.

## **ITEM 8: Adjourn**

Mr. Seltz thanked members for a thoughtful and substantive discussion, told members they will receive follow-up by email about the outstanding task force deliverables, and encouraged them to reach out with any additional input in the meantime. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.