

APRIL 2022

OHIC NEWS

The Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

OHIC is committed to transforming the health care system in Rhode Island into one that is more accessible, equitable, and affordable. In honor of Diversity month, we are highlighting the office's ongoing and upcoming diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. OHIC's statutory purpose charges the agency with protecting consumers of commercial health insurance and improving the health care system as a whole. These and other aspects of OHIC's charge encompass three public interest objectives: access, affordability, and quality. We believe that taking meaningful steps to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion considerations explicitly into our work is strongly supportive of these objectives and an expression of OHIC's values such as respect, justice, and collaboration. OHIC will proceed intentionally and systematically and may prioritize different aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion at different points in time to ensure that the work is successful. View our full diversity, equity, and inclusion plan [here](#).

MISSION

OHIC will actively consider diversity, equity, and inclusion as it seeks to have a more diverse and representative workplace and engages in work to protect consumers of health insurance, improve the health care system as a whole by developing, carrying out, and advocating for policy reforms and regulatory enforcement actions that proactively seek to improve representation in health care system decision making, eliminate disparities in health outcomes, and create the conditions under which the assets and needs of diverse groups are accounted for and valued.

► DIVERSITY

Work related to diversity will focus on taking steps to have OHIC efforts to improve the health care system carried out in a way that is representative of all members of the community.

► EQUITY

Equity work at OHIC will focus on efforts to ensure that the health care system functions in a manner that is just, regardless of one's race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, geography or any other social barrier/factor.

► INCLUSION

Work related to inclusion will focus on OHIC taking steps to further the creation of circumstances in the health care system that are respectful of the assets and needs of diverse people and groups.

VISION

OHIC envisions a world where the commercial health insurance system is accessible, affordable, and high-quality for Rhode Islanders of every background and where the commercial health insurance system supports the creation of a transformed health care system that results in equitable health outcomes regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, geography, or any other social barrier/factor.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION GOALS

➡ Support the successful implementation of commercial health insurance coverage for doula services in order to improve perinatal and postpartum outcomes and reduce racial disparities in these health outcomes.

➡ Encourage and evaluate options to require insurers to pursue the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Health Equity Accreditation/Health Equity Accreditation Plus that will address how insurers provide culturally and linguistically sensitive services and work to reduce health disparities.

➡ Encourage and evaluate options to require insurers to systematically collect, maintain, protect, and report on, at a minimum, member data on race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, and preferred language.

Welcome

State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner - protecting the interests of consumers of commercial health insurance and improving Rhode Island's health care system.

[Learn about our priorities](#)

OHIC LAUNCHES REDESIGNED CONSUMER-CENTERED WEBSITE

In order to better meet the needs of Rhode Island consumers we redesigned our website to make it more accessible, user-friendly, and educational. We believe this new design helps eliminate barriers for consumers using our website to access critical health care resources and information, and we will continue to improve upon it as we gather feedback from the community. View our new website at www.ohic.ri.gov.

The 2021 Health Insurance Advisory Council report highlights the collaborative efforts between the members of the Health Insurance Advisory Council (HIAC) and the staff of OHIC throughout 2021. Inside you will find the six key priorities that drive the office's work as it strives to transform the health care delivery system in Rhode Island. [View the report here.](#)

HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL 2021 ANNUAL REPORT