



# Social and Human Service Programs Review Advisory Council Charter

## Introduction

The State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) conducts comprehensive reviews of all social and human service programs having a contract with or licensed by the state, inclusive of the State of Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the state agencies under its purview, as required by [State of Rhode Island General Laws \(RIGL\) § 42-14.5-3\(t\)](#). As noted in OHIC Bulletin 2022-3, for the purpose of ensuring that the scope of the review is carried out to the highest standards of credibility, integrity, and transparency, in light of RIGL § 42-14.5-3(t)(2)(x) read within the context of [RIGL § 42-14.5-2](#) and RIGL § 42-14.5-3(t), OHIC is convening a public body to act in an advisory capacity for the office on all aspects of the review.

This body shall be known as the Social and Human Service Programs Review Advisory Council with members appointed by the health insurance commissioner representing those with the requisite expertise related to social and human service programs. The health insurance commissioner shall charge council members with providing advice that is consistent with advancing the welfare of the public regardless of organizational affiliation and OHIC shall retain all decision-making authority to be exercised consistent with RIGL § 42-14.5-2 and RIGL § 42-14.5-3(t). Meetings of the council shall be conducted to allow providers, recipients, and other interested parties an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment.

## Purpose

In carrying out its duties to review social and human service programs under RIGL 42-14.5-3(t), OHIC, taking into consideration the advice and input of the advisory council, shall always endeavor to provide accurate and reliable information and recommendations that seek to:

1. ensure that Rhode Islanders have timely access to critical social and human services programs, and
2. promote the efficient delivery of services and protect the interests of those who pay for services.

## Social and Human Service Programs Review Advisory Council Conduct

The council shall conduct its activities consistent with the following:

1. All meetings will be open to the public and conducted by council co-chairs.
2. Agendas will be published in advance and distributed to an interested parties list.
3. Meetings will be conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act found at [RIGL § 42-46](#).

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4. As the role of the council is largely advisory, meetings will be conducted in open, participatory style, inclusive of all members.
5. Due to the advisory nature of the council's work, the council will not vote or reach final decisions about particular issues or questions. Rather, the council will be a forum for discussion from which OHIC will gather input.
6. Council co-chairs will determine under what circumstances non-members may participate in particular meetings. Preference for participation among non-members will be given to invited guests, those who request agenda items, and regular attendees.
7. Council members will lend their expertise and knowledge of the structure of social and human service programs to facilitate the review process.
8. Council members will not exercise oversight of state contractors and OHIC shall retain all decision-making authority over program parameters and recommendations.

From time to time, the council may revisit this charter.

### **Conclusion**

The council serves a critical role within the framework for social and human service programs review set forth in RIGL § 42-14.5-3(t).