

State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner
Social and Human Service Programs Review Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2022
10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Attendance

Members

Co-Chair Commissioner Patrick Tigue, Co-Chair Elena Nicolella, Co-Chair Sam Salganik, Garry Bliss, Linda Katz, Craig Gordon (on behalf of Tanja Kubas-Meyer), James Nyberg, Nicholas Oliver, Laurie-Marie Pisciotta, Tina Spears, Lisa Tomasso (on behalf of Teresa Paiva Weed), John Tassoni

Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner Staff

Cory King, Molly McCloskey

Unable to attend:

Beth Bixby, Margaret Holland McDuff, Maureen Maigret

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Tigue called the meeting to order. He stated that this would be his last meeting and that his last day as Commissioner will be December 2, 2022.

2. Review of October Meeting Minutes

The council approved the October meeting minutes.

3. OHIC Social and Human Service Programs Review Updates

Molly McCloskey reviewed OHIC updates. She thanked council members for meeting with her one-on-one and offered to meet with anyone she had not met with yet. Molly also stated that she would be happy to meet with council members at any time and encouraged them to reach out.

Molly let council members know that she was anticipating receiving more feedback on the provider data collection form. She stated that she would circulate an updated version of the form with next steps soon.

Cory King explained that there was no new public information he could share regarding the status of the social and human service programs review RFP. OHIC will share more information on this as soon as possible.

Molly gave an overview of what the advisory council can expect before January 1, 2023. OHIC will continue to work with the advisory council and state agencies on prioritization and data collection, and hopefully a vendor will be onboard. The January 1 report will include as much information as OHIC has – hopefully including a list of in-scope rates, and the date they were last updated – which is contingent upon having a vendor onboard and having some time to work with them before January 1. The report will include a summary of what OHIC has done so far.

Molly addressed future meeting scheduling. She explained that OHIC felt that it could have more substantive meetings once a vendor is onboard. Molly will continue to be available to the members on a one-on-one basis before the next meeting. She stated that if any of the council members think the group should meet before the New Year and has a suggested meeting topic in mind, please let her know.

Molly provided an update on the interagency work group. Since the council last met, she and Cory met with Medicaid and Gainwell. Prior to the meeting, Medicaid sent their fee-for-service fee schedule spreadsheet, which included 76,000+ lines of data. The meeting was to orient Cory and Molly to the spreadsheet. Additionally, OHIC asked that Medicaid/Gainwell start working on adding the dates of when code rates were last updated to the spreadsheet.

4. Discussion of January 1, 2023 Deliverable #5

The advisory council finished up the discussion that began during the October meeting on the January 1 deliverables by discussing deliverable #5, “an assessment and detailed reporting on accountability standards for services for social and human service programs...” Molly explained that based on a recent conversation she had had, her understanding was that the intent of this deliverable is to account for accountability standards of providers to the purchaser of services. Some provider contracts include many reporting requirements, and some contracts include almost no reporting requirements. As she understands it, the legislature is interested in learning about what accountability looks like across programs.

Elena Nicolella stated that she thought that deliverable 5 was tied to deliverable 4, “... reporting on the structure of the state government as it relates to the provision of services by social and human service providers including eligibility and functions of the provider network...” Elena explained that there are existing accountability standards explicit in regulation and statute about how Medicaid can access federal funds, which has to do with ensuring that there are sufficient providers to actually deliver the services. Elena expressed that she was thinking about accountability from a state government perspective and that both types of accountability are useful and informative for this work. She advised that OHIC consider a broader definition of accountability. Tina Spears agreed that both types of accountability are relevant to this review. Tina said that there are a lot of credentialing criteria for different programming and she thinks that that was part of the rationale behind this deliverable. Tina expressed that she thinks that understanding the responsibility of state government to ensure that there is a clear fiscal process that adheres to federal guidelines is paramount for this project.

Elena stated that looking at accountability of state government to the people who are accessing services is a quality-of-care measurement, which is a part of provider accountability, and then maybe there are some measures specifically from the individual and family perspective. If the January 1 deliverable is about a point-in-time snapshot, then it should be a recording of what exists already and then maybe we can begin talking about what more could be done. What accountability standards are in place today? And do we have the tools to measure if we are meeting those standards?

Sam Salganik stated that there are three different sets of stakeholders – the government, the providers, and the recipients. Government has to be accountable to providers and recipients, and the providers have to be accountable to government and recipients. Accountability can be viewed in different ways.

Linda Katz expressed that it might be helpful to take an example and work it through the deliverables because she thinks it is difficult to envision all of the pieces together. Commissioner Tigie clarified that what he heard Linda saying was that we could take the five initial deliverables and choose a topic and think through how that topic would flow through each of the deliverables. The example could be used to facilitate a dialogue and feedback. Linda agreed with Commissioner Tigie and stated that that might provide more clarity for everyone about what we are doing. Commissioner Tigie agreed that that would be something to consider.

5. Presentation by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Commissioner Tigie thanked the Secretary for joining the council. He stated that he and the Secretary have discussed that she would be happy to come back as much as the council would like to continue a dialogue.

Secretary Novais explained that the review legislation requires consultation with EOHHS, which she takes very seriously. She stated that she thinks it is important for EOHHS and the other agencies indicated in the legislation to listen and engage. Her intention is to be present and engaged in these meetings as much as possible.

Secretary Novais presented to the advisory council. Her presentation included the agency's vision, mission, and core values along with an overview of rate increases included in the FY 2023 budget and proposed increases for the FY 2024 budget. The presentation slides can be viewed [here](#).

Sam Salganik thanked the Secretary for her presentation, for attending the meeting, and for her collaboration. Sam stated that collaboration with EOHHS, and the agencies under it, is the only way that we will get an outcome that is useful to stakeholders.

6. Public Comment

No one from the public commented.

7. Adjournment