
MEMORANDUM

FROM: CORY KING, ACTING HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
SUBJECT: HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 230-RICR-20-30-4
DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2023
CC: EMILY MARANJIAN, LEGAL COUNSEL

On Monday February 27th, 2023 at 9:00 AM OHIC held a hearing on the proposed amendments to 230-RICR-20-30-4 *Powers and Duties of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner*. Acting Health Insurance Commissioner Cory King served as the hearing officer. The hearing was well attended by stakeholders, including representatives of health insurance companies and provider groups. One party offered oral public comments at the hearing. The hearing was recorded. The final deadline for written comments is March 7th, 2023, with the possibility of short extensions.

Jay Buchner from Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (NHPRI) offered comments on the proposed new section of 230-RICR-20-30-4 pertaining to Health Equity, specifically demographic data collection standards and NCQA Health Equity Accreditation. Mr. Buchner stated that the timing proposed for achieving Health Equity Accreditation is unrealistic based on what is required of health plan applicants. In order to get accreditation, the plan has to have standards in place for twelve months prior to the review. Many of these requirements demand changing information systems and data collection methods. There is a lot of lead time necessary to do that work. We are looking to achieve accreditation in 2025. We will need most of this year to plan how we are going to achieve it and most of next year to make necessary changes. We would suggest that OHIC push deadline back to the end of 2025.

There have been some early proposals from the Office of Management and Budget to revise standards for reporting race and ethnicity and those standards are directed to federal agencies in particular which would include CMS and the Medicaid program, and probably the federal Marketplace as well. We recommended OHIC be aware of those potential changes. My understanding is we don't have similar standards for some of the other items that OHIC is proposing to collect as demographic data.

That concluded the oral comments. The recoding of the meeting can be accessed [here](#). Enter passcode: tU+O7FFf when prompted to view the recording.