



All Payer Claims Database Advisory Group
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
August 10, 2023	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Attendance: Advisory Group Members

Olga Armah (Chair)	R	Patricia Checko	R	Bernie Inskeep	R
Paul Lombardo	R	François de Brantes	R	Robert Barry, DAS	X
Robert Aseltine	R	Sandra Czunas	R	Michaela Dinan	R
Scott Gaul, OPM	R	Michael Giralmo, DHMAS	X	Cassandra Murphy	R
Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	Robert Scalettar, MD	X		
William Halsey, DSS	X	James Iacobellis	X		

Supporting Leadership

Sumit Sajani, HITO	R	Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Vasi Gournaris, OHS	R
--------------------	---	----------------	---	---------------------	---

Other Participants

Adel Ebeid, OPM	R	Michael Bailit, Bailit Health	R		
-----------------	---	-------------------------------	---	--	--

In accordance with current FOIA statutes re: meetings held by solely by electronic means: R = attended remotely, IP = attended in person

Agenda

	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
1.	Welcome and Call to Order	Olga Armah, OHS	1:04 PM
	The regularly scheduled meeting of the APCD Advisory Group was held virtually on Thursday, August 10, 2023. Ms. Armah welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Upon roll call it was determined quorum was present.		
2.	Public Comment	Members of Public	1:06 PM
	There were no public comments.		
3.	Artificial Intelligence – State Government Update	Adel Ebeid, OPM	1:07 PM
	<p>Mr. Ebeid introduced himself as senior IT policy advisor to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Secretary. Key highlights from Mr. Ebeid’s presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of P.A. 23-16, <i>An Act Concerning Artificial Intelligence, automated decision-making, and person data privacy</i>. The law is effective July 1, 2023; it applies to all executive and judicial branch agencies and is intended to provide guardrails to ensure Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government is implemented in a responsible, ethical, and equitable manner. • Mr. Ebeid stated that the state’s posture is that a lot of good can come out of AI, the intent is not to stifle the creativity and innovation that can come out of using AI, the State just needs to make sure it is implemented in a consistent and responsible manner. There will likely be future iterations of the statute and related state policies. • An overview of milestones in the bill, including: an inventory of all systems that use AI in the state by Dec 31, development of a policies and procedures by Feb 1, agencies will begin performing assessments of systems that employ AI through an assessment tool, an AI working group will submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly. There is split responsibility between OPM and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on implementation. • A summary of activities occurring between July and Dec, including, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ early guidance issued to agencies regarding generative AI, ○ the formation of an internal workgroup, ○ creation of a central repository, ○ engagement with other branches, ○ education and outreach with key stakeholders, participation in a digital summit in September, ○ survey to capture use cases, and ○ draft policy framework will be completed in mid to late fall. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of policy elements including guiding principles, ethical considerations, requirements for AI systems, and Assessments, Inventory and Oversight. <p>The floor opened for questions. Ms. Armah provided context for the presentation, stating that AI is not presently being used in the APCD program but there is a chance in the future for it to be used. OHS has heard from stakeholders about uneasiness about AI and how it may introduce bias into the analyses and decision making that state government does. The presentation was intended to inform the members and public of measures being taken by the state in developing guardrails.</p> <p>Mr. Aseltine made a comment about AI presenting an opportunity to take human bias out of the equation and certain decisions that are made, particularly around healthcare. He commented that his hope is that the AI workgroup will adopt a balanced approach in developing the guardrails. Mr. Ebeid commented about embracing AI but making sure guardrails striking a right balance are in place to ensure agencies and stakeholders are implementing it within a framework that ensures accountability and transparency.</p> <p>The full presentation may be viewed here: PowerPoint Presentation (ct.gov)</p>		
4.	Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark Presentation	Michael Bailit, Bailit Health	1:26 PM
	<p>Michael Bailit provided a presentation on the CT Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark initiative, key highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A background overview of the cost growth benchmark initiative and PA 22-118. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Lamont issued E.O. No 5 in 2020, later PA 22-118, creating the CT healthcare cost growth benchmark initiative. OHS must set annual cost growth benchmarks in accordance with statute. OHS worked with a stakeholder advisory group to set benchmarks for a five-year period (2021-2025). OHS also established quality benchmarks effective 2022 and primary care spending targets for 2021-2025. Mr. Bailit provided an overview of the timeline for requirements to be fulfilled by OHS and data submitters in accordance with the statute, including a public hearing (recently held Jun 28) and a report submitted by OHS to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly (due Oct 15). An overview of the logic model for the cost growth benchmark. A presentation overview on how the APCD is being leveraged through data and analysis to inform findings. The analysis will be used to identify opportunities and strategies to slow cost growth and then to implement. Mr. Bailit noted this is an ongoing iterative process. An overview of the three elements that make up the measurement for performance against the benchmark, and the formula that equates to the total healthcare expenditures. There are four levels of reporting of performance against the benchmark (state, market, insurer, advanced network). An overview of the data sources for the calculations. Summary of the results for 2020 and 2021 of CT's total healthcare expenditures & total medical expense trends by market. <p>Members asked questions. Francois De Brants initiated a discussion regarding the difference in negotiated prices and differences in trends for the fully insured versus self-insured populations. Mr. Bailit agreed and commented that it will be good if private institutions like a large university would contribute claims data to the APCD to help capture these nuances. Pat Checko inquired whether the pandemic influenced the results. Mr. Bailit commented that it did so enormously, covid impacted trend data. A discussion took place regarding the impact of covid on the data.</p> <p>Mr. Bailit summarized the value of the APCD, describing it as an essential tool in understanding healthcare spending, and increasingly sophisticated analyses are going to allow OHS and the public to understand what's driving spending and spending growth, and then to inform specific policy solutions to improve affordability.</p>		
5.	Review and Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2023	Olga Armah, OHS	2:02 PM
	<p>Ms. Armah requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting. A motion was made (Inskeep) and seconded (Gaul). All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.</p>		
6.	APCD Strategic Prioritization Update	Sumit Sajjani, HITO	2:04 PM
	<p>Mr. Sajjani presented an update on APCD strategic prioritization activities. Mr. Sajjani stated that since the last meeting, OHS conducted additional stakeholder engagement and held internal discussions to review strategic goals for the APCD and assess prioritization based on considerations such as existing resources and any dependencies. Mr. Sajjani summarized</p>		

	<p>each of the seven umbrella-level strategic initiatives which are organized into two major categories: 1) data enhancements and utilization, and 2) operational enhancements.</p> <p>Mr. Sajnani provided an overview of what OHS has prioritized for this current fiscal year and what will be considered as future endeavors. OHS has prioritized pursuing the following key activities in the current fiscal year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data quality and bringing in additional data from current submitters, • website redesign, • data request application refinement, • filling vacancies across councils, and • evaluating the fee structure. <p>Ms. Armah provided further information on the vacancies. Recommendations are sought by members in filling the following seats: 1) an attorney with experience in healthcare, data privacy or research matters, 2) a healthcare professional such as a physician, nurse, social worker, or psychologist, and 3) a representative of a health insurance company.</p>		
7.	Data Submission Guide Update	Olga Armah, OHS	2:15 PM
	<p>Ms. Armah presented an update on the APCD Data Submission Guide. Ms. Armah stated that the 30-day public comment period closed in June. OHS received approximately 15 questions from six respondents. All comments and responses to questions were published on the OHS website and shared with respondents in July. The public comment period resulted in no changes to the DSG. Stakeholder input has informed the deadline to submit data in the new format. Whereas the DSG is effective October 2024, OHS has extended the time for which payers must begin submitting data in the new format to January 2024. Ms. Armah reminded the group that the DSG now allows for the collection of dental and fully denied claims data, and race, ethnicity and language data in the format required by statute.</p> <p>Ms. Inskeep inquired if the final DSG has been distributed to current submitters. Ms. Armah indicated that Onpoint has sent the final DSG to submitters. Staff will follow up with Onpoint. Mr. Sajnani thanked all involved in the process of updating the DSG.</p>		
8.	APCD Updates	Olga Armah, OHS	2:20 PM
	<p>Ms. Armah announced the resignation of Adrian Texidor from state government thanking him for his support, energy, and time administering the APCD.</p> <p>Ms. Armah provided an update on data type and years available. Years available can be found here: APCD Data Release Committee--Data Request (ct.gov). Ms. Armah reported that OHS now has the funds to renew the Medicare DUA and hopefully Medicare data will be more up to date by next year.</p>		
9.	APCD Data Release Committee Report	Dr. Patricia Checko	2:25 PM
	<p>Dr. Checko announced that there is one data request currently in-process and commented that she looks forward to the new endeavors to make people more aware of the APCD and more available for people to use in the future.</p>		
10.	Wrap Up & Adjournment	Sumit Sajnani, HITO	2:27 PM
	<p>Ms. Armah provided a recap of the meeting before requesting a motion to adjourn. A motion was made (Czunas) and seconded (Checko). Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM.</p>		

Upcoming Meeting: November 9, 2023

All meeting information and materials can be found at

<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT-Advisory-Council>

Zoom Meeting Recording

ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS-APCD-AG-Meeting-Recording-08102023.mp4

Full Presentation

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/APCD-Advisory-Group/Meeting-Materials/8-10-23/OHS-APCD-Advisory-Group-Meeting-Presentation-08102023-final.pdf>