

Healthcare Cabinet Meeting Minutes October 11, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
October 11, 2022	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Webinar and Conference Call

Participant Name and Attendance

Healthcare Cabinet Members					
Kimberly Martone	X	Deidre Gifford	X	Kurt Barwis	X
Claudio Capone	X	Alan Kaye	X	James Michel	X
Rev. Robyn Anderson	X	Paul Lombardo	X	Ellen Andrews	X
Manisha Juthani	X	Claudio Gualtieri	X	Heather Hill Ferguson	X
Margherita Giuliano	X	Anthony Yoder	X	Pat Baker	X
Nichelle Mullins	X	Danielle Morgan	X		
Claudio Gualtieri	X	Cassandra Murphy	X		
Ted Doolittle	X	Jill Zorn	X		
Members Absent					
Joshua Wojcik		David Whitehead		Hussam Saada	
Valencia Bagby Young		Shelly Sweatt		Adelita Orefice	
Nicole Taylor		Nancy Navarretta		Allan Kaye	

Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1 Call to order and Introductions	Kimberly Martone
The regularly scheduled meeting of the Healthcare Cabinet was held on Tuesday October 11, 2022, via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. Kimberly Martone presiding. Attendance taken by roll call.	
2 Public Comment	Kimberly Martone
There was no public comment.	
3 Approval of the September 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes	Kimberly Martone
The motion was made to approve the September 13, 2022, meeting minutes by James Michel and seconded by Pat Baker.	
4 Impact of Inflation Reduction Act in CT Access Health/Covered CT Update	James Michel, Access Health
Ms. Martone introduced James Michel who presented on the Impact of Inflation Reduction Act in CT along with Access Health and Covered CT update.	
Highlights from the presentation are below:	

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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) passed in August 2022. It extends enhanced Premium Tax Credits under ARPA through Plan Year 2025.

- Removes Eligibility Cut-Off at 400% of the FPL.
- Ensures no consumer pays more than 8.5% of their annual income for premiums.
- Reduces amounts consumers with income between 100-400% of the FPL pay.
- 100-150% of the FPL contribution percentage reduced to 0%.
- > 150% of the FPL contribution percentages over 0% up to 8.5% maximum.

Contribution towards EHB premium, so no \$0 here but very minimal premium amounts.

Mr. Michel noted that Open Enrollment scheduled from November 1, 2022 to January 15, 2023.

The focus for OE10 is to:

- Provide market clarity on consumer impact to 2023 pricing;
- Promote continued financial help through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA);
- Continue acquisition efforts for Covered Connecticut Program (available for all adults this OE);
- Retain and transition existing Dental enrollees into streamlined application;
- Prepare for impending end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Public Health Emergency Update:

- Nearly 390k enrollees currently benefit from extended HUSKY coverage.
- The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is expected to announce a PHE renewal in October 2022.
 - PHE renewal periods have historically been 90-day extensions.
- AHCT continues to delay action on open verification requirements for Qualified Health Plan (QHP) customers for the duration of the PHE.
- Preparation for the eventual end of the PHE is well underway. Coordination with the Department of Social Services (DSS) includes:
 - Reverting eligibility/enrollment requirements to pre-PHE thresholds/configurations;
 - Planning unwind schedule, enrollment volume, and renewal rules;
 - Communication strategy and coordination with internal/external stakeholders;
 - Operational readiness for increased customer support.

Mr. Michel also gave a brief update on the Broker Academy. The state exam was passed by 29 Students. Estimated 5 to 10 students awaiting testing.

Ms. Martone thanked Mr. Michel for the update. Several discussions ensued for more information please see the meeting recording link below.

https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/GMT20221011-131015_Recording_1920x1080.mp4

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6	Health Care Workforce Development	Ben Stang, Director of Healthcare Workforce Strategy, Social Venture Partners
<p>Kim Martone introduced Ben Stang, Director of Healthcare Workforce Strategy. Mr. Stang presented on Health Care Workforce Development. Mr. Stang began by noting who was on the Board of Governor’s Workforce Council. The Governor’s Workforce Council was created to develop a nation’s leading workforce.</p> <p>Mr. Stang noted that after one year of development, the GWC released its Workforce Strategic Plan on October 28, 2020. The Plan puts forward a coordinated, statewide strategy for building an equitable, inclusive, and innovative workforce that meets the needs of the current economic environment. The Plan recommends strategies in business leadership, education, equity and access, and data accountability. This Plan was a collaborative effort and solicited feedback and recommendations from industry representatives, educators, philanthropic and community-based organizations, and other key groups.</p> <p>Mr. Stang spoke of coordinating a statewide approach to the Healthcare Workforce along with taking a regional approach to a statewide project.</p> <p>Mr. Stang noted that CT Health Horizons is opening the bottleneck to nursing and social work. In 2020, almost 12,000 qualified applicants applied to nursing schools for less than 3,000 available seats. Accelerated BSN programs are cost-effective but capacity is limited and not eligible for Pell grants. LCSW is most in-demand behavioral health position.</p> <p>Kim Martone thanked Mr. Stang for the detailed presentation. Several discussions ensued for more information, please see the meeting’s recording link below. https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/GMT20221011-131015_Recording_1920x1080.mp4</p>		
Adjourn		Kim Martone
<p>The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by James Michel and seconded by Pat Baker. The motion passed.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.</p>		