

Article 1: Name

Section 1: The name of this group will be the Office of Health Strategy (“OHS”) Physician Practice Workgroup.

Article 2 Purpose

Section 1: Public Act 21-129 requires OHS to study physician practices within Connecticut. The executive director of OHS is to report on the outcome of the study and provide recommendations for legislative action, as a result of the study, to the General Assembly, not later than February 1, 2023. (It’s expected that some preliminary suggestions will be provided by February 1, 2022, so the legislature can discuss the issues during the legislative session.)

The overarching vision of the Physician Practice Workgroup (“PPW”) is to determine the best approach to oversee the acquisition and ownership of physician group practices so CT residents have access to physicians in a manner that assures access, avoids increased costs to them, fosters choice and assures quality of care.

This work group’s intended purpose is to do the following:

1. Evaluate methods to improve oversight and regulation of mergers and acquisitions of physician practices to improve health care quality and choice in Connecticut;
2. Study methods to ensure the viability of physician practices;
3. Develop legislative recommendations to improve reporting and oversight of physician practice mergers and acquisitions, including possible amendments to CT general statutes.

It’s expected that the workgroup will draft recommendations for the OHS executive director to submit to the General Assembly.

Article 3: Membership

Section 1: The Physician Practice Workgroup shall consist of the following members:

1. One member from the Insurance Department;
2. One member from the Office of the Attorney General;
3. Two members from health insurance plans;
4. Six members from acute care hospitals or their affiliated health system parent corporation;
5. Three members from specialty group practices;
6. Two members from large physician group practices;

7. Two members from small physician group practices;
8. One member from a family health center;
9. Two members representing consumers.

A list of the current workgroup members can be found at [put in link when data is posted to the website](#).

Article 4: Chairpersons

Section 1: The PPW will have two chairpersons. One will be a member from the OHS staff and a second member will be elected from the remaining members of the workgroup.

Section 2: The chairpersons will be responsible for setting meeting agendas and establishing regular meeting schedules, as well as any other duties required to facilitate the operations of the workgroup.

Section 3: The chairpersons of the workgroup may establish subcommittees or small working groups. The subcommittee will report committee findings and recommendations to the chairpersons.

Article 6: Duties of the Workgroup members

Section 1: The group is constructed of experienced individuals with knowledge of how physician group practices operate, the process of acquisition of group practices, including related entities, such as imaging centers and others, and/or the healthcare market effects of acquisition of group practices and related entities . It's expected that members, based on their expertise, will:

1. Provide relevant experiences related to physician practices and the care they deliver to patients;
2. Provide input to the group on the impact of mergers and acquisitions or practices and related entities and the impact of those acquisitions on costs and quality;
3. Provide meaningful participation during discussions, in order to advise OHS on recommendations on potential changes in statutes;
4. Attend monthly meetings based on a schedule to be determined by the workgroup members. Meetings may include presentations from experts on issues related to mergers and acquisitions. For the first several months, meetings may be bimonthly followed by monthly meetings thereafter;
5. Be willing to participate in subcommittees if required to draft proposals to bring to the workgroup's chairpersons.

Article 7: Operating Procedures

Section 1: All meeting notification information will be published on the OHS web site. Meeting agendas or changes will be sent by email to workgroup members within 48 hours of the scheduled meeting by a member of OHS staff.

Section 2: All meetings will be held remotely through Zoom video conferencing until further notice.

Section 3: The meetings will be recorded and will be posted to the OHS website within 48 hours of holding the meetings.

Section 4: The chairpersons may solicit agenda items from members in advance of a meeting and items may be added to the agenda on the day of the meeting if approved by the chairpersons, unless a special meeting of the work group is called.

Section 5: The chairpersons may ask members to participate in various subcommittees if required to research different topics related to the workgroup.

Article 8: Duties of OHS

Section 1: OHS will provide the workgroup and chairpersons with meeting facilitation, development of meeting agendas, related materials, planning and scheduling, research and analysis, and stakeholder engagement.

Section 2: OHS staff assigned to the workgroup will attend all meetings and inform members of developments related to its work.

Section 3: OHS staff will inform the workgroup about any changes in state statutes or regulations that impact the goals of the workgroup.