

All-Payer Claims Database Advisory Group Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Hartford Hilton, Hartford Commons Room

Members Present

James Wadleigh, *Chair*; Robert Aseltine; Melissa Morton (online, on behalf of Secretary Benjamin Barnes); Corinne Seibert (on behalf of Commissioner Roderick Breiby); Michael Michaud (online, on behalf of Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon); Theodore Doolittle; Allan Hackney; Bernie Inskip; Matthew Katz; Dean Myshrall; Kimberly Martone (on behalf of Commissioner Raul Pino); Jean Rexford; Robert Scalettar, MD., Robert Tessier; Victoria Veltri; Victor Villagra; Mary Ellen Breault (on behalf of Commissioner Katharine Wade)

Members Absent

James Iacobellis; Kevin Lembo; Thomas Woodruff; Francois de Brantes

Other Participants

Onpoint Health Data: Patrick Quinn; Joanna Duncan

AHCT Participants

Robert Blundo

I. Call to Order and Introductions

James Wadleigh called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of March 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

James Wadleigh asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Robert Tessier made a motion to approve the minutes. Victoria Veltri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Updates and Project Status Overview

Robert Blundo, Director of Technical Operations and Analytics, introduced Allan Hackney, Health Information Technology Officer, who is now a member of the All-Payer Claims Database Advisory Group.

Mr. Blundo provided an update on APCD developments, both statewide and nationally.

Matthew Katz and Robert Aseltine arrived at 9:09 a.m.

He displayed state successes in collaborating with SIM initiatives to measure and benchmark health outcomes, annual health cost reports by health policy commissions, and several reports that reviewed and rated cost transparency tools available nationally.

Mr. Blundo also provided a policy update on Public Act 15-146, now codified at CGS § 38a-1084a, and alerted the committee to Senate Bill 795, which proposed changing responsibility for the APCD to the Office of Health Strategy. Victoria Veltri indicated that data and reports required by the legislation were tied to the APCD, and questioned whether reporting on the 50 most frequent medical procedures was helpful. She mentioned close to 10 of the top procedures in the list were related to labor and delivery. The value of those comparable services were discussed.

Mr. Blundo provided an update on accomplishments since the last Advisory Group meeting. He covered progress that had been made in collecting data from all of the commercial payers in Connecticut through 2016. He also provided an update on the data-extraction tool under development, and ongoing assessments of publicly available consumer-facing tools and existing products. He also referenced several accomplishments including: support provided to the University of Connecticut Health Disparities Institute to assist in their report on health literacy in Connecticut, preliminary analytics performed to evaluate data quality, a prescription drug usage report provided to the Healthcare Cabinet, and a preliminary assessment of consumer tools focused on cost and quality transparency.

Dr. Robert Scalettar expressed his support for the APCD's actions to recognize some tools that would make it easier for consumers to navigate. Robert Aseltine spoke of similar work taking place in the State Innovation Model (SIM), and preliminary findings on the utility of those tools by stakeholders. He indicated challenges in accessibility, literacy, and awareness. Dr. Villagra indicated that based on his recent research, the level of consumer understanding is low, and that more robust and vigorous representation at the policy level is needed. He recommended aggregating recommendations around policy and using entities like SIM to drive change. Dr. Villagra questioned whether APCD web reports alone could influence it. Matthew Katz asked about the reliability of data within the APCD, and asked to make sure that the APCD has various segments of the market, such as commercial and governmental payers included.

V. APCD Development and Strategy Update

Mr. Blundo provided an update on APCD strategy. He reminded the group of current mission, vision, and customers of the APCD, and proposed core strategies. Additionally, he proposed a framework for establishing strategic priorities for future development to ensure limited resources were used as effectively as possible. Mr. Blundo proposed the goals and objectives to achieve the strategies discussed, and proposed the tasks to be focused on until the next Advisory Group meeting. Mr. Katz indicated that he appreciated the work done; however, he expressed his concern that managing expectations might be difficult given the challenges, resources, and timing available.

VI. Data Quality Assessment and Submission Update

Mr. Blundo introduced Patrick Quinn and Joanna Dunkin of Onpoint Health Data, to provide an update on data collection efforts and data quality assessments. Members inquired about pharmacy data not yet submitted by Express Scripts. Mr. Quinn indicated that Express Scripts was in the process of submitting

their data. Discussion ensued about carriers who experienced submission delays. Mr. Blundo informed the committee that Anthem placed a temporary hold on data submission due to new SAMHSA requirements from 42 CFR Part 2 taking effect in March. Mr. Katz inquired whether state employee data was collected, and Mr. Blundo confirmed it was. Mr. Quinn added that there were other entities that were not in compliance, such as HealthyCT's medical and provider data. Mr. Tessier inquired whether it is reasonable to expect to collect outstanding data from HealthyCT, given their insolvency status. Mary Ellen Breault indicated it would be unlikely, given remaining staffing and resources. Dr. Scalettar expressed his concern that the pharmacy data may be lagging behind the medical data submission. Mr. Blundo indicated that the database was built with indicators that will allow researchers to identify data that was incomplete, in an effort to mitigate research or analytic problems. Mr. Katz inquired about the absence of the Medicaid data set, which contains close to 700,000 individuals. Ms. Dunkin presented the data quality activities and assessments performed by Onpoint. She provided summary statistics from the database, and examples of challenges and solutions encountered in processing data.

VII. Next Steps

Mr. Blundo re-iterated the focus tasks for the next 3 months, and agreed to follow up with carriers regarding the discussion on submission status.

VIII. Future Meeting

The next scheduled regular meeting for the APCD Advisory Group is August 10, 2017, at a location to be determined.

IX. Adjournment

James Wadleigh asked for a motion to adjourn. Dean Myshrall moved to adjourn. Bernie Inskeep seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.