

All-Payer Claims Database Advisory Group Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET
Location: Legislative Office Building, Room 1D

Members Present

James Wadleigh, *Chair*, Tamim Ahmed, Robert Aseltine, François de Brantes (via GoToMeeting), Mary Ellen Breault (via GoToMeeting), Demian Fontanella, James D. Iacobellis, Bernadette Inskeep, Kimberly Martone, Michael Michaud (on behalf of Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon), Melissa Morton (on behalf of Secretary Benjamin Barnes), Dean Myshrall, Jean Rexford, Corrine Seibert (on behalf of Commissioner Roderick Bremby) (online), Robert Tessier, Victor Villagra, Josh Wojcik (on behalf of State Comptroller Kevin Lembo) (arrived at 9:15 a.m.)

Members Absent

Raul Pino, Victoria Veltri, Katherine Wade, Thomas Woodruff

Other Participants

William Roberts (Shipman and Goodwin), Dr. Henry Jacobs, (arrived at 9:30 a.m.)

AHCT Participants

Susan Rich-Bye, Matt Salner, Ryan O'Neil

I. Call to Order and Introductions

James Wadleigh called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The members introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of May 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes

James Wadleigh asked for a motion to approve the August 11, 2016 meeting minutes. Dean Myshrall made a motion to approve the minutes. Robert Tessier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. CEO/ ED Updates

Dr. Tamim Ahmed gave an update on the progress of the APCD timeline. The APCD is not currently receiving data from Anthem but there is work in process regarding a business associate agreement. Dr. Ahmed expressed the hope that all data would be collected by the end of the year.

Dr. Ahmed said there were some delays with the website including having to change the name from Compare Health CT to Analyze Health CT for trademark reasons.

The collection of Medicaid and Medicare data has not started yet. The memorandum of agreement with the Department of Social Services is in place but there is a misunderstanding about the data files that are requested. The MOA covers claims data. Dr. Ahmed stated that in most cases that would also include eligibility data. However, DSS does not understand it that way. Additionally, the DSS eligibility data resides in a different system than the claims data. Dr. Victor Villagra described the misunderstanding as unacceptable and wondered how DSS could think claims data would not also include eligibility data. Dr. Tessier agreed.

The APCD has done everything it can in regards to applying for Medicare data. Dr. Ahmed said staff are waiting for a response.

Dr. Ahmed said there are four reports targeted for publication during the fourth quarter of this year along with the premier of the website in that same time period.

V. Mission/Vision Statement and Strategies Revisited

Dr. Ahmed thanked the group for the work done on the Mission and Vision Statements and the Strategies. **Mr. Tessier moved to adopt the statements. Jean Rexford seconded the motion.** Mr. Tessier said a lot of good work had been done to strengthen the initial versions. **The motion to adopt the statements passed unanimously.**

VI. Data Release Committee Membership

Dr. Ahmed stated that he had taken the advice of the group and added consumer representatives to the Data Release Committee – Tiffany Donelson, Patricia Checko, and Lisa Freeman. The group approved of these additions. Bernie Inskeep asked about having a representative of a health insurer that is submitting data instead of a representative from one that is not currently submitting data. A discussion followed about whether the vote on the slate of candidates would be for individuals or for slots. Susan Rich-Bye said the slots had been approved as part of the policy and procedure document that had already been approved. **Mr. Fontanella made a motion to approve the slate of candidates for membership on the Data Release Committee. Mr. Tessier seconded the motion. Dr. Villagra offered a friendly amendment to the motion, that approval of the individual in the industry representative slot would be contingent upon the submission of data by the insurer employing the representative. Mr. Fontanella accepted the amendment. It was passed unanimously.**

VII. Data Fee Schedule – Preliminary

Dr. Ahmed discussed the data release fee schedule, noting that there are different fees for the four different types of requestors and different fees for different groupings of data. Dr. Ahmed said the fees had been arrived at by examining the APCD's costs in relation to the data and the fees being charged by APCDs in other states. He noted this would not be a profit center for the APCD but would simply be in place to recover costs. He wanted the fees to be reasonable to encourage the use of the data for research. Dr. Henry Jacobs made a suggestion to charge pharmaceutical companies a higher fee for the data as he feels pharmaceutical companies charge outrageous prices for their products. Bernie Inskeep pointed out in other states, generally, submitters do not purchase the data. Dr. Villagra did not agree with this suggestion. He encouraged the group to adopt the fees as they stood. **Mr. Fontanella moved to adopt the fee schedule. Ms. Rexford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Melissa Morton abstained.**

VIII. Discussion of Potential Future Release of Limited Data Sets

Dr. Robert Scalettar stated the Data Privacy and Security Subcommittee approved a motion signifying the subcommittee's interest in the APCD pursuing legislation to allow for the release of limited data sets (LDS). Ms. Rich-Bye explained that the legislation establishing the APCD does not allow for the release of LDS, only de-identified data. Dr. Ahmed explained de-identified data does not include dates of birth, dates of service, or complete ZIP codes. It has the first three digits of a ZIP if that grouping of ZIP codes contains more than 20,000 people (all such groupings in Connecticut do). The pros of releasing LDS include making the data more useful to researchers. The cons include the privacy concerns of making re-identification of individuals easier.

Jim Iacobellis and Dr. Aseltine both praised the thoughtfulness of the discussion during the subcommittee meeting. Both mentioned that adding the two elements to a de-identified data set would make the data much more useful to researchers. Corinne Seibert inquired if there are extra restrictions regarding HIV status or mental health diagnoses. Ms. Rich-Bye said this point had not been raised previously and said it needed to be considered. Ms. Inskeep said that among other states' APCDs, they all release LDS. François de Brantes emphasized the critical importance of making the LDS accessible because it is his opinion that the data without dates of service has no value. Mr. Wadleigh pointed out that this motion would be moving this request one more step along the process with the next stop being the Access Health CT Board of Directors. After that, it would need to go to the General Assembly for a change to the statutes. **Ms. Rexford made a motion to move ahead with the proposal. Dr. Aseltine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

IX. APCD Website

A demonstration of the APCD website followed, including the report functions. There was agreement that the site looked good and it was exciting to see it. Dr. Aseltine pointed out the results showed differences in disease rates with the numbers from the Department of Public Health. Kim Martone discussed the differences in the data and the methodologies used to generate the two sets of numbers. Dr. Villagra pointed out the use of the term "prevalence" on the site might be problematic since it has a very specific definition within public health and suggested using a different but similar term. Mr. Wadleigh asked if there was an expectation that after the APCD collected a certain percentage of the data that the numbers would resemble DPH's numbers. Dr. Villagra said there was not but that was due to the numbers coming from two methodologies, which is fine. An explanation on the site would be more important and helpful. Ms. Martone agreed. Mr. Wadleigh said the site will be launched soon and there will be more reports available through it soon.

X. Future Reports

Dr. Ahmed showed a list of reports that the APCD plans on producing in the future.

XI. Next Steps

There were no Next Steps.

XII. Future Meeting

The next regular meeting of the APCD Advisory Group is Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 9:00 am at a location yet to be determined. Mr. Iacobellis expressed appreciation for the updates between meetings and asked if information about acquiring data from DSS could be included as well.

XIII. Adjournment

James Wadleigh asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Villagra moved to adjourn. Mr. Fontanella seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.