



Finance Committee Regular Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2026

Remote

Members Present:

Claudio Gualtieri (Chair) on behalf of Joshua Wojcik, Secretary - Designate, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Commissioner Manisha Juthani, Department of Public Health (DPH); Thomas McNeill; Commissioner Andrea Barton Reeves, Department of Social Services (DSS)

Access Health CT (AHCT) Staff Present:

James Michel; Holly Zwick; Jeanna Walsh; Susan Rich-Bye; Marcin Olechowski

A. Call to Order and Introductions

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee (Committee) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call for attendance was taken.

B. Public Comment

No public comment was submitted.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes

Chair Claudio Gualtieri requested a motion to approve the Committee's November 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Motion was made by Thomas McNeill and was seconded by Andrea Barton Reeves. Roll call vote was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.**

D. Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 – 3rd Quarter Budget Report – Operating (Vote)

Holly Zwick, Director of Finance, provided the Finance department update. Ms. Zwick presented the Third Quarter FY 2026 Budget Report. As of March 31, 2026, AHCT is approximately \$258,000 under budget. Revenues are exceeding projections due to stable interest rates and higher-than-expected assessment revenue, particularly from dental assessments, while expense savings are primarily driven by the timing of staff hiring, project implementation, and invoice processing. No changes are anticipated to the FY

2026 Operating Budget or the shared cost budget with the Department of Social Services (DSS) following the third quarter.

Ms. Zwick noted that the full-year outlook reflects revenues exceeding budget by approximately \$467,000, with plans to allocate the surplus to reserves. Grant funding is projected at approximately \$50,000, including tentative approval of a \$20,000 cybersecurity grant, though overall grant revenue remains below initial expectations due to external funding challenges. Expenses remain on track, with savings in salaries and temporary staffing, as well as reallocation of certain contractual and maintenance costs toward Information Technology (IT) enhancements, including support for Temporary Premium Assistance (TPA) configuration and system improvements. Minor variances were noted across supplies, travel, and administrative expenses.

The Committee discussed the importance of expanding grant funding opportunities, acknowledging challenges related to eligibility constraints, including the organization's non-501(c)(3) status, and the evolving federal funding landscape. James Michel, Chief Executive Officer, emphasized that efforts are underway to explore strategies to enhance access to grant funding over the next 12 to 18 months.

Commissioner Manisha Juthani joined at 10:10 a.m.

Additionally, the shared cost budget with DSS remains flat, with a noted reclassification of approximately \$560,000 from IT maintenance to temporary staffing. An update was also provided on carryforward projects from FY 2025, with all projects expected to be completed on time and within budget.

Chair Claudio Gualtieri requested additional context on key IT and strategic projects, including the small group integration project and related initiatives. Mr. Michel explained that the small group integration project involves transitioning from a vendor-supported platform to an internally-developed system that will offer greater flexibility, reduced long-term costs, and improved control over updates and enhancements. The new platform is designed to integrate small group offerings with AHCT's BusinessPlus platform, enabling small businesses to more easily choose between traditional small group coverage and Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) options for their employees. The new small group platform is expected to go live in July 2026, representing a significant step toward a more unified and flexible benefits administration system.

Chair Claudio Gualtieri requested a motion to approve the Third Quarter FY 2026 Budget Report – Operating as presented by AHCT staff. Motion was made by Thomas McNeill and seconded by Manisha Juthani. Roll call vote was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.**

E. Investment Report

Ms. Zwick presented the Investment Report. AHCT continues to prioritize capital preservation, liquidity, and competitive returns through its investment in the State

Treasurer's Short-Term Investment Fund, with year-to-date earnings of approximately \$920,800 and sufficient liquidity to meet expenditures for the next nine months.

F. FY 2027 – Proposed Operating Budget (Vote)

Ms. Zwick presented the FY 2027 Proposed Budget. The budget reflects an overall increase of approximately \$5.0 million, largely driven by continued investment in the 10-Clicks Initiative, while the shared cost budget with DSS decreases by \$450,000 due to the completion of a one-time actuarial study.

Compared to FY 2026, FY 2027 revenue projections include similar grant funding of \$250,000, a slight decline in interest income and other income, and a significant increase in marketplace assessment revenue driven by higher prior-year enrollment, with a portion allocated to capital development. Expense increases include higher salary and fringe costs due to standard adjustments and rising health insurance expenses, as well as increased contractual spending to support outreach and marketing efforts related to Open Enrollment and higher media costs in an election year. Information Technology (IT) enhancement costs will rise to support system implementation, while other areas such as travel and administrative expenses are expected to remain stable or slightly decrease.

Ms. Zwick reviewed projections indicating a FY 2026 surplus expected to exceed initial estimates, potentially reaching approximately \$1 million, and an anticipated FY 2027 reserve balance of \$20.7 million, equivalent to 5.3 months of operating expenses. It was noted that while reserves are increasing, the months of operating coverage have slightly declined due to rising expenses. The shared cost reduction with DSS was confirmed to reflect the conclusion of a one-time, pass-through expenditure.

Mr. Michel pointed out that beyond the annual budget process, the organization continuously evaluates opportunities to reduce expenditures and improve efficiency and effectiveness. As part of these efforts, there is an ongoing review of contracted services, with consideration given to bringing certain functions in-house when it is cost-effective and operationally advantageous to do so. This includes areas such as outreach and technology, where internalizing services may provide greater flexibility and cost savings compared to increasing vendor costs.

Commissioner Manisha Juthani inquired about contingency planning in the event reserves need to be utilized, including potential strategies to prioritize essential operations, pause contracts, or extend operating capacity. Mr. Michel indicated that a contingency planning exercise had been conducted to assess operational priorities and necessary functions under adverse scenarios, and to identify critical services required to continue supporting residents. AHCT intends to present an updated contingency planning framework to the Finance Committee and Board at future meetings.

Chair Claudio Gualtieri requested a motion to approve the FY 2027 Proposed Operating Budget as presented by AHCT staff. Motion was made by Manisha Juthani and was seconded by Andrea Barton Reeves. Roll call vote was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.**

G. Adjournment

Chair Claudio Gualtieri requested a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Thomas McNeill and was seconded by Manisha Juthani. Roll call was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.