



2020 West El Camino Avenue, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95833
hcai.ca.gov



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING:
HEALTHCARE PAYMENTS DATA (HPD) PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 28, 2022
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Attending: Steffanie Watkins, Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies (ACLHIC); Amber Ott, California Hospital Association (CHA); Jodi Black, California Medical Association (CMA); Emma Hoo, Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH); Ken Stuart, California Health Care Coalition; Anthony Wright, Health Access California; Joan Allen, Service Employees International Union- United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW); Cheryl Damberg, RAND Corporation; William Barcellona, America's Physician Groups.

Members not in attendance: Charles Bacchi, California Association of Health Plans (CAHP), John Kabateck, National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)

HPD Advisory Committee Ex-Officio Members Attending: Dr. Linette Scott, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS); Isaac Menashe Covered California; Michael Valle, Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI).

Presenters: Elizabeth Landsberg, Director, HCAI; Michael Valle, Chief Information Officer and Deputy Director, HCAI; Starla Ledbetter, Chief Data Officer, HCAI; Christopher Krawczyk, Chief Analytics Officer, HCAI; Jill Yegian, HPD Consultant, HCAI; Jonathan Mathieu, Freedman Healthcare; Linda Green, Freedman Healthcare.

Public Attendance: 52

Agenda Item # 1: Welcome and Meeting Minutes
Ken Stuart, Chair

Ken Stuart, Advisory Committee Chair, welcomed the Committee members and members of the public and called the meeting to order. The Committee also received a brief presentation by Bobbie Wunsch on hybrid meeting ground rules.

The Committee reviewed the January 27, 2022 meeting minutes. The Committee voted and approved the January 27, 2022, meeting minutes. Ken Stuart made a motion. The motion was seconded by Bill Barcelona and Cheryl Damberg and passed by a vote of the committee.

Public Comment: No comments.

Agenda Item # 2: Department Update
Elizabeth Landsberg, Director, HCA

Director Landsberg greeted and welcomed everyone to the HPD Advisory Committee meeting and began by discussing the new and pending bills and budget proposals impacting HCAI and

its programs. The Director noted there is a strong focus on the HCAI health workforce programs that aim to address the shortage of behavioral and mental health care providers in California as well as seismic safety for hospitals.

The Director also highlighted the CalRx Program, which would allow California to enter into generic drug manufacturing partnerships to support The Governor's plan to lower prescription drug costs.

Public Comment: No comments.

Agenda Item # 3: Division Update

Michael Valle, Chief Information Officer & Deputy Director, HCAI

Michael Valle began by continuing the discussion from the January meeting on the Data Release Committee, emphasizing the importance of the data release committee members' role as they will be assisting with the criteria, policy, and procedures for accessing and releasing nonpublic data; reviewing applications from users; and deeply knowledgeable in health care, privacy, and security.

Michael briefly previewed Freedman Health Care's presentation on hypothetical scenarios the Data Release Committee may encounter and shared the timeline for upcoming meeting topics, highlighting public reporting principles and priorities.

Questions and Comments from the Committee

Members of the committee inquired about HCAI's approach to user testing of the data prior to public release as well as HCAI's plan to ensure the threshold set for mandatory submission captures regionally specific plans. Members also expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to provide HCAI feedback and requested a summary of the feedback that was previously requested and received by HCAI.

Public Comment: No comments.

Agenda Item # 4: HPD Program Implementation

Starla Ledbetter, Chief Data Officer, HCAI

Jill Yegian, HPD Consultant, HCAI

Starla Ledbetter provided a presentation on updates on the HPD Program implementation, and progress to date of HPD submitter outreach activities including a brief recap of the most recent data submitter group meeting, HCAI's webinar trainings on file submission and highlighted that nearly all of the expected plans have successfully registered for submission as of April.

Questions and Comments from the Committee

The Advisory Committee had questions about the timeline for upcoming regulations packages and what would be included in them. Committee members also inquired when supplemental data submission, including for capitated payments, would be included. The committee also acknowledged there may be upcoming changes at the federal level regarding collection of non-

claims based payments and HCAI's hope in aligning with national standards.

Public Comment: No comments.

Agenda Item # 5: Data Release Committee: Governing Provisions
Jill Yegian, HPD Consultant, HCAI

Presentation on key governing provisions pertaining to HPD Data Release Committee including statutory provisions, HPD Program goals, and data access objectives.

Questions and Comments from the Committee

The committee members clarified the impact of passthrough restrictions for Medi-Cal and Medicare FFS data on data release process development. The committee also suggested to catalog all the current passthrough restrictions as a helpful resource for users to be able to refer to when requesting data. Committee members acknowledged the need for HCAI to manage and prioritize the requests for access to data in order to manage the workload. Additionally, the committee had further feedback on the HCAI Data Access Objectives regarding sustainability and ensuring this objective captures the balance of contributing to program sustainability as well as considering how the fee schedule impacts smaller organization's ability to access the data.

Lastly, the committee asked for clarification between the definition of supplier and clinician and how the terms have been used in statute.

Public Comment: No comments.

Agenda Item # 6: Insights from Other States on Data Release Committees
Linda Green, Freedman Healthcare,
Jonathan Mathieu, Freedman Healthcare

Overview of other state All-Payer Claims Database approaches to data release committees.

Questions and Comments from the Committee

The committee received clarification on how other state data release committees think about conflict of interest and whether a member would need to recuse themselves from a discussion or voting or both. The committee also commented on the importance of choosing members of the committee while taking into account members' professional affiliations in order to avoid any conflict of interest if possible. The committee inquired if any state has found a way to implement a 'blinded' review system and also requested examples of data requests that had been denied by other states to better understand how California can address similar requests.

The committee also commented on how researchers may benefit from being able to efficiently access a wider breadth of data than what may be initially requested and asked how HCAI plans to address those types of requests. The committee commented that it may be helpful to inform data requestors as to what conditions they must meet before being granted access. The frequency of meetings and the time allotted to review applications was also addressed.

The committee had a robust discussion on the hypothetical data requests presented and what California would need to consider as it builds out its Data Release Committee.

There were two public comments provided:

The first public comment was in regards to antitrust laws and how it may be beneficial if the state has a rule in place to safeguard the collected data from being monetized.

The second public comment was regarding whether the payment arrangements would at any point include provider supplemental payments as well.

Agenda Item # 7: Data Release Committee: Roles and Membership
Christopher Krawczyk, Chief Analytics Officer, HCAI
Jill Yegian, HPD Consultant, HCAI

Discussion on HCAI's approach to the role of the HPD Data Release Committee and approach to member selections.

Questions and Comments from the Committee

The Committee advised on the benefits of leveraging professionals from research facilities and once again reiterated the importance of finding and appointing members of the Data Release Committee who have a wealth of experience in their field to best assess the requests. The committee also commented on the conflict-of-interest language and how it impacts selection of representatives. They also added that experience with another APCDs would be useful and that a group of people that could collaboratively work together would be beneficial. The committee also suggested HCAI should require training prior for those handling personally-identifiable information and that it would be beneficial to grant the Data Release Committee the ability to bring in professionals from various fields.

Lastly, committee members commented on the possible negative outcomes when considering letters of recommendation for positions on the Data Release Committee, the possible benefits of adding additional members to balance the workload, and that HCAI's Director should have final say when appointing members.

Public Comment: No comments.

Agenda Item #8 Public Comment

Agenda Item #9 Adjournment
Ken Stuart, Chair

Ken Stuart thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.