



Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor



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Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB) Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2024
Minutes
Adopted by board on October 17, 2024

Web link to the meeting video: [September 19, 2024 UHPGB Meeting Recording](#)

Web link to the meeting materials:

- [Agenda](#)
- [PowerPoint presentation](#)

Call to order:

Chair Helen Bellanca called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Board members present:

Chair Helen Bellanca, Vice-chair Warren George, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Judy Richardson, Chunhuei Chi, Cheryl Ramirez, and Bruce Goldberg.

Virtually: Michelle Glass

Welcome and Introductions:

[Written public comment submissions](#)

After board member roll call and agenda review, Chair Bellanca briefly summarized and thanked the members of the public who submitted written public comments for the board to review.

Approval of August 15, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

Chair Bellanca asked if board members had any changes to the minutes and there were none.

Vice-Chair George made the motion to approve the minutes and Bruce Goldberg provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion.

Board vote:

Yes: Chair Helen Bellanca, Chunhuei Chi, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice Chair Warren George, Michelle Glass, Judy Richardson, Cheryl Ramirez and Bruce Goldberg

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

Public Comment: [00:07:33](#)

Chair Bellanca called upon the members of the public who signed up to share oral testimony regarding a specific item on the meeting agenda.

- Tom Sincic, attending in-person, shared oral testimony regarding concerns on board time spent on the Cost Growth Target Presentation.
- Antonio (Tony) Germann, attending virtually, shared oral testimony regarding legislative intent of the UHPGB.

Executive Director's Report: [00:13:50](#)

Director Cowling provided updates on staff's work in supporting the UHPGB since the last board meeting.

- Staff have been focused on bringing on additional capacity to support the board and workplan

- Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has hired a policy analyst that will be starting October 14th to support this work, and a second policy analyst will start shortly after. These two analysts will be strongly supporting committee work/research as part of their roles.
- The interagency contract has been finalized with the UHPGB and OHA to access contractor support through their technical assistance bank. Health Management Associates (HMA) has been hired on to support the board with committee work, health policy research and federal waiver research.
- Director Cowling has been working with chair and vice-chair to finalize the statement of work for the larger request for proposal (RFP) to bring on an additional contractor, which is still on track to begin in January/February.
- Staff is working on bringing on contractor support for the Community Engagement and Communications committee.
- Staff was very focused on committee recruitment since the last board meeting, and developed a scoring system for all 166 committee applications. Staff reviewed every application and worked closely with the chairs of each committee to make recommendations to the full board on committee membership.
 - Committee member orientation is scheduled for September 26, 2024.
 - Committee orientation is not mandatory for UHPGB members to attend. Chair Bellanca and Vice-chair George will be participating and help facilitate.
 - Staff has also been working to ensure each committee has a workplan that aligns with the tasks and deliverables of the board's workplan.
- Questions continue to come in regarding the board's budget and if the board has enough to accomplish its charge.
 - The UHPGB has submitted their current service level budget of \$1.9 million for the next biennium, which continues the current level of capacity in staffing and includes inflationary increases for contractor work.
 - Part of the structuring of the RFP for contractor support is adding in specific deliverables that contractors will have to respond with a quote advising how much those items will cost. As contractor responses come in from the RFP (once it goes live) this will help the board have a better idea of how much money will be needed.
 - Through board discussion, it was recommended that in the next few months the board have a "budget" agenda item where it lands on how much money the board thinks is needed and the strategy to ensure those monetary needs are met through the legislative process.
 - Chair Bellanca charged each committee chair with the following:
 - In your first few committee meetings, carefully think through what the deliverables are on your committee's timeline and what resources you need to accomplish your tasks. Then come back to the board with your requests and anticipated needs.
 - Chunhuei Chi shared that two high priority items for the Finance and Revenue committee will be to come up with the annual cost of the Universal Health Plan and how it will be financed.
- On September 20th, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission will be meeting to vote on proposed administrative rules to Oregon's Public Meetings Law.
 - Director Cowling will work with board council to determine if the board's policies and procedures need to be amended or updated to align with the new rules, if they are voted in.
 - The administrative rules recommend that boards with a budget of under \$1 million are recommended, not required, to complete Public Meetings Law training.

- Jeanene Smith and Anya Wallack from [Health Management Associates](#) introduced themselves to the board.

Vice-chair Roles and Responsibilities: [00:33:39](#)

Vice-chair George shared that his term on the UHPGB is through end of 2025, but due to family considerations, he is moving that up to November 1st, 2024 and stepping away from the board at that time. The board will need to elect a new vice-chair to take over the Vice-chair roles and responsibilities effective November 2nd, 2024. There will be a vice-chair election at the October board meeting. Vice-chair George’s departure will create a temporary vacancy seat on the board. As UHPGB members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, the next available “new” board member appointment opportunity through this process will not occur until January or February. Vice-chair George’s seat on the board is a “public engagement” seat, so Staff will be working to update the website advising public that applications for a public engagement seat on the board are being accepted and refer those interested to the governor’s appointments for boards and commissions website.

- For those who initially applied to be on the UHPGB, applications are held open for two years. It is recommended to go into Work Day and update any relevant information on your profile and follow the steps to apply again if interested.

Review Committee Deliverables and Appoint Committee Members: [00:39:25](#)
[Materials 6.1](#)

Chair Bellanca thanked members of the public that applied to be on one of the UHPGB committees. For those who were not selected right now, the board will be holding on to your applications and may reach out to you as the work progresses and as continued expertise is needed.

- Communications and Community Engagement Committee
 - The board reviewed the committee’s objective, deliverables, board member liaisons and meeting cadence.
 - Proposed motion: Appoint the following 12 applicants to the Communications and Community Engagement Committee: Grace Hocog, Mickie Derting, Juan Pablo Villalobos Garcia, Collin Stackhouse, Max Brown, Jensina Hawkins, Jay Brown, John Buzzard, Craig Newton, Juana Yesenia Hernandez-Solis, Katie Koenig and Josilyn Ogden

Amy Fellows made the motion to appoint the 12 applicants named and Judy Richardson provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion.

Board vote:

Yes: Chair Helen Bellanca, Chunhuei Chi, Cheryl Richardson, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice Chair Warren George, Michelle Glass, Judy Richardson, and Bruce Goldberg

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

- Finance and Revenue Committee
 - The board reviewed the committee’s objective, deliverables, board member liaisons and meeting cadence.
 - After board discussion it was reiterated that one of the deliverables needs to be to determine an accurate estimate of the annual cost of the Universal Health Plan. It was also recommended to add analysis of the financial impact to individuals, as well as Oregon’s economy.
 - Cheryl Ramirez has volunteered to chair the Finance and Revenue committee, after Vice-chair George’s term is complete effective November 1, 2024.
 - Proposed motion: Appoint the following 7 applicants to the Finance and Revenue Committee: Samantha DuPont, John Santa, Richard Gibson, Charlie Swanson, Bethany Stairs, Jeff Gudman and Chris Hogan.

Vice-chair George made the motion to appoint the 12 applicants named and Cheryl Ramirez provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion.

Board vote:

Yes: Chair Helen Bellanca, Chunhuei Chi, Cheryl Richardson, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice Chair Warren George, Michelle Glass, Judy Richardson, and Bruce Goldberg

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

- Plan Design and Expenditure Committee
 - The board reviewed the committee's objective, deliverables, board member liaisons and meeting cadence.
 - Proposed motion: Appoint the following 18 applicants to the Plan Design and Expenditure Committee: Rosemarie Hemmings, Angela Michalek, Antonio Germann, Betsy Boyd-Flynn, Brian Frank, Christine Zinter, Eve Gray, Gabriel Andeen, Tashrique Rahman, Jim McGee, Jamie Osborn, Julianne Horner, Max Kaiser, Melissa Brewster, Mike Durbin, Peter Addy, Peter Merritt, and Robert Fiset.

Debra Diaz made the motion to appoint the 18 applicants named and Bruce Goldberg provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion.

Board vote:

Yes: Chair Helen Bellanca, Chunhuei Chi, Cheryl Richardson, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice-Chair Warren George, Michelle Glass, Judy Richardson, and Bruce Goldberg

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

- Operations Committee
 - The board reviewed the committee's objective, deliverables, board member liaisons and meeting cadence.
 - Proposed motion: Appoint the following 10 applicants to the Operations Committee: Ann Lovejoy, Douglas Flow, Laura Byerly, Paul Stanphill, Rosalind Lindsay, Michael Horey, Doris Kirangu, Sara Fouche, Paula Weldon and Lauri Hoagland.

Judy Richardson made the motion to appoint the 10 applicants named and Bruce Goldberg provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion.

Board vote: Yes: Chair Helen Bellanca, Chunhuei Chi, Cheryl Richardson, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice-Chair Warren George, Michelle Glass, Judy Richardson, and Bruce Goldberg

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

Status Report Due to Legislature – Outline Review: [00:55:50](#)

[Materials 8.1](#)

A status report of the board's progress is due to the Senate Interim Committee on Health Care by December 1, 2024. This will be an annual status report, so there will be one due December 1, 2025 as well.

Director Cowling will have a draft of the outline for the board to review and provide feedback on at the October board meeting. That feedback will be implemented and a final draft will be reviewed at the November board meeting for board approval.

Through board discussion, the following recommendations were made:

- The status report should focus on laying out a compelling vision for the board and focus on the values and principles work that has been accomplished.
- Include information on the budget and what the board anticipates it might need to get this work done.
- Include that the board will need ongoing active support, resources and partnership from the legislature, both financially and in engagement.

- Suggestion to create PowerPoint slides to go along with the report, to make it even more compelling.
- When the meeting details are finalized where this report will be given, send out a bulletin to board members and people signed up to receive UHPGB updates so that they can tune in and support the effort.

Oregon’s Sustainable Health Care Cost Growth Target: [01:19:05](#)

[Materials 7.1](#)

Cost Growth Target Program manager, Sarah Bartlemann, and program policy lead, Trang Weitemier, co-presented a high-level overview of OHA’s Cost Growth Target program. Concluding the presentation, the board discussed the relevance of the Cost Growth Target Program in relation to the board’s plans for a Universal Health Plan and how the board can incorporate what the Cost Growth Program has learned. Sarah will be providing follow up documents to staff to post to the UHPGB website as follow up materials.

Board Outreach: Meeting Take-Aways and Outreach: [02:34:22](#)

- Key take aways from this board meeting:
 - Vice-chair George’s departure. The board will be electing a new vice-chair in October and accepting applications for a new member to take over Vice-chair George’s board member seat.
 - The board appointed new committee members and committees are preparing to launch.
 - Cost Growth Program presentation, discussion and how it applies to the universal health plan.
 - The board is well positioned for their first status report to legislature.
- Board member community engagement opportunities:
 - Chunhuei Chi was invited to speak at the Taiwan Medical Association regarding the reflection on Taiwan’s universal health care. In that talk, Chunhuei may share some of the board’s experiences thus far.
 - Chair Bellanca was asked to give an update on the board’s work at a Health Care for All Oregon fundraiser event coming up.
 - Chair Bellanca and Vice-chair George have been asked to give an update on the board’s work to the Oregon Medical Association.
 - Amy Fellows and Michelle Glass have been asked to give an update on the board’s work at an upcoming Allies for a Healthier Oregon meeting

Public Comment: [02:39:25](#)

Chair Bellanca called upon those members of the public that signed up to provide oral testimony.

- Richard Walsch, attending in-person, shared oral testimony regarding how to message a universal health plan to Oregonians and build trust with residents through simplicity. The board needs to pick a benefit already in place plan as the model, then adopt it and figure out how to administer and finance it.
- Michael Huntington, attending virtually, shared oral testimony regarding his questions and concerns in response to the Cost Growth Target Program presentation.

Adjournment:

Amy Fellows shared the following quote: “Understanding disability and ableism is the work of every revolutionary, activist, and organizer of every human being. Disability is one of the most organic and human experiences on the planet. We are all aging, we are all living in polluted and toxic conditions, and the level of violence currently in the world should be enough for us to care more about disability and ableism.” – Mia Mingus

Michelle Glass volunteered to provide the adjourning quote/poem/story for the October board meeting and Bruce Goldberg volunteered for November.

Chair Bellanca adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.