



Oregon
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Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB) Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2024
Minutes

Web link to the meeting video: [October 17, 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, Chunhuei Chi, Amy Fellows, Debra Diaz
Cherryl Ramirez, Bruce Goldberg.
Virtually: Judy Richardson
Absent: Michelle Glass

Welcome and Introductions:

[Written public comment submissions](#)

Chair Bellanca briefly summarized and thanked the members of the public who submitted written public comments for the board to review.

Approval of September 19, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

Cherryl Ramirez made the motion to approve the minutes and Vice-chair George provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion. Chair Bellanca called for a board vote:

Board vote:

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

No: None

Motion passed 8-0.

Executive Director's Report: [00:12:55](#)

[4.1 Executive Director's Report](#)

On Executive Director Cowling's behalf, Jenny Donovan, UHPGB's Senior Policy Analyst, covered the executive director's report, linked above. Jenny also introduced the two operations policy analysts, who are housed within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in the Health Policy and Analytics Division, and will be supporting the board and committees' policy work: Jessica Merino and Danielle Ross.

Board Vice-Chair Elections: [00:18:08](#)

Vice-chair George's last day on the board is November 1. The replacement vice-chair will begin their position on November 2. Debra Diaz nominated Judy Richardson as the new vice-chair and Judy accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made.

Debbie Diaz made the motion for the board to elect Judy Richardson to be Vice-Chair of the Universal Health Plan Governance Board until her term expires and Amy Fellows seconded the motion. Chair Bellanca called for a board vote:

Board vote:

Yes: Chair Helen Bellanca, Chunhuei Chi, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice-chair Warren George, Cherryl Ramirez and Bruce Goldberg

Abstain: Judy Richardson

No: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Finance and Revenue Committee Chair and Board Member Appointment: [00:20:00](#)

Vice-chair George is the chair of the Finance and Revenue (F&R) Committee and a replacement chair needs to be elected to fill that seat effective November 1. Cherryl Ramirez, current board member of the F&R Committee, volunteered to be chair.

Bruce Goldberg made the motion for the board to appoint Cherryl Ramirez to be chair of the Finance and Revenue Committee of the Universal Health Plan Governance Board until their term expires and Amy Fellows provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion. Chair Bellanca called for a board vote:

Board vote:

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

Abstain: Cherryl Ramirez

Motion passed 7-0.

Chunhuei Chi volunteered to join the F&R committee effective January 1, 2025, to ensure the committee has representation from two board members, with Vice-chair George's departure. No other board members volunteered.

Bruce Goldberg made the motion for the board to appoint Chunhuei Chi to serve as a member of the Finance and Revenue Committee of the Universal Health Plan Governance Board as the second board member. Cherryl Ramirez provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion. Chair Bellanca called for a board vote:

Board vote:

Yes: Chair Helen Bellanca, Cherryl Ramirez, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice-chair Warren George, Judy Richardson, and Bruce Goldberg

Abstain: Chunhuei Chi

Motion passed 7-0.

Public Meeting Law Update: [00:22:36](#)

The Oregon Ethics Commission (OGE) have made updates to Oregon's public meetings law. The UHPGB's council, Jake Gill, has confirmed that the board's policies and procedures do reflect the requirements of the law and no changes are needed.

Through board discussion, concerns were brought up as it relates to communication between board or committee members outside of public meetings, and the confusion with the current wording in the board's policies and procedures. Jake Gill clarified the reasons for the restrictions laid out in the legislation and advised the board steps they can take to address their concerns. The board will have an executive session in the November board meeting to further discuss Oregon's public meetings law.

- Chair Bellanca asked board members to email staff any unanswered questions or concerns they have regarding public meetings law as it pertains to the board's policies and procedures; as well as any specific scenarios board members would like the board to present to the OGE.

Review Draft Status Report to the Interim Committees on Health [00:46:09](#)

[8.1 Draft Report](#)

The board's first status report is due to Oregon Legislature on December 1, 2024. Based on direction and feedback from the board, staff created the draft report for board members to review. During board discussion the following feedback was provided for the report:

- Clarify language around the governance of the plan by a nonprofit corporation, since the UHPGB will continue to operate as the overseeing body of the plan; it will be the administration of the plan that will be done by the nonprofit organization.
- Regarding challenges ahead:
 - Long term care
 - Workforce
 - Public buy-in
 - Tap into the resources that already exist in the state (data from the division of financial regulation on current benefits in the Oregon Marketplace) and determine what's working and what isn't and connecting the dots to the Universal Health Plan
 - The board needs to build in time in the timeline to put the plan in a pressure test and challenge it from all angles to ensure it's going to work.

Feedback provided for second legislative report due December 1, 2025:

- Resources will be needed for the creation of a calculator for Oregonians to use to see how the Universal Health Plan will impact them personally.
- Potentially asking for an extension for the work if the board realizes through 2025 that there is not enough time to complete the board's charge.

By January, committee chairs have been asked by Chair Bellanca to inform the board if they think additional resources are need to accomplish their respective committee's tasks and deliverables. This info will help draft the December 2025 report due to the Legislature.

Future Meeting Topics: [01:05:00](#)

Chair Bellanca stated that now that committees are beginning their work, a large portion of future board meetings will be dedicated to committee updates provided by committee chairs. During board discussion the following suggestions for future foundational board meeting topics were made:

- Chunhwei Chi would like to present on the general principle of taxation and how revenue affects different populations
- When discussing long term care, the board needs to be really clear about what long term care means, defining terms, and being thorough about what is included.
- A behavioral health expert who can speak to how behavioral health can be integrated into a universal health plan, so the board can learn from other countries pitfalls.
- In presentations going forward, can the presenter let the board know what the implications would be to a universal health plan and what the board should consider pertaining to that (specific to their topic).
- Panels that include business owners, hospital representation, etc. regarding their current problems with Oregon's health care system.

Oregon Revenue 101: [01:29:43](#)

[9.1 Overview of Oregon's Revenue System](#)

Chair Bellanca called upon Chris Allanach of the Legislative Revenue Office to present to the board an overview of Oregon's revenue system; board discussion followed.

Discussion: Revenue Considerations for the Universal Health Plan: [02:28:44](#)

Vice-chair George reviewed slides 46-48 of the PowerPoint slides presented at the meeting and available on the website, regarding revenue principles the board and F&R committee should

consider in a universal health plan. Through board discussion, the following suggestions were made by individual members:

- Balance of life vs. livelihood needs to be considered when developing taxation plan
- Principle to consider adding: the designed taxation plan needs to consider the economic impact for the whole state and it cannot have a negative impact on Oregonians' livelihood
- Need to spend time focusing on where to save money
- Is there a way to fund the universal health plan in Oregon with the current revenue stream that exists today by transitioning to a single payer system?
- Is there any way to get selective tax revenue to put towards health care?
- Should a sales tax be considered?
- Potential savings to consider: if auto insurance includes liability coverage, that would be savings for the Universal Health Plan because the auto insurance company will cover those health care costs.

Review Board Decision-Making Process [02:46:56](#)

Jenny Donovan reviewed the process for committees to present their recommendations to the board and how those recommendations will be approved.

Public Comment: [02:52:53](#)

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

- Mike Huntington, attending in-person, shared oral testimony regarding the issues with the PA system in conference room 260, communication between board members, the request for traveling board meetings/community listening sessions, and a calculator based on PEBB benefits (specifically Warren George's).
- Collin Stackhouse, attending virtually, shared oral testimony regarding concerns with Oregon public meetings law and advice for presenters to the board going forward.

Adjournment: Michelle Glass provided the following poem:

Practicing the Complex Yes

By Kim Stafford

When you disagree with a friend,
a stranger, or a foe, how do you
reply but not simply say No?
For *No* can stop the conversation
or turn it into an argument or worse –
the conversation that must go on, as a river
must, a friendship, a troubled nation.
So may we practice the repertoire
of complex yes:

Yes, and in what you say I see...

Yes, and at the same time...

Yes, and what if...?

Yes, I hear you, and how...?

Yes, and there's an old story...

Yes, and as the old song goes...

Yes, and as a child told me once...

Yes. Yes, tell me more. I want to understand...

And then I want to tell you how it is for me...

Chair Bellanca adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.