



Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor



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Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB) Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2024
DRAFT Minutes DRAFT

Web link to the meeting video: [December 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, Amy Fellows, Debra Diaz, Bruce Goldberg and Cheryl Ramirez

Virtually: Vice-chair Judy Richardson

Absent: Michelle Glass and Chunhuei Chi

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 November 21, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

Bruce Goldberg made the motion to approve the minutes and Cheryl Ramirez provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion. Chair Bellanca called for a board vote:

Board vote:

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

Abstain: Cheryl Ramirez

No: None

Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report: [00:05:16](#)

Executive Director Morgan Cowling shared the following staff updates:

- Congratulations to board members Debbie Diaz and Judy Richardson for being officially reappointed to the board and confirmed by the Senate
- The Governor's office is working on the appointment of the public member that will fill the vacant public engagement seat on the board. That should go to the Senate for confirmation in February.
- Staff submitted the UHPGB status report to legislature (Senate and House interim committees on health) on the board's behalf. Chair Bellanca and Vice-chair Richardson presented to the house interim committee on behavioral health and healthcare.
- Governor Kotek's budget came out on December 2nd and included the \$1.9 million for current service levels for the UHPGB to continue their work. That total number accounts for the three full time staff members supporting the board at DCBS and a slight increase for contractors and other support for the board.
- On November 28, 2024, the board received a public meeting grievance regarding the executive session in the November board meeting. Director Cowling worked with board counsel, Jake Gill, to respond to the grievance within the allotted 21 day timeframe with

the response that receiving written advice from counsel is within the parameters of calling an executive session and that all rules were followed.

- Staff has been partnering with chair, vice-chair and procurement to get the Request for Proposal (RFP) out for contracting support for the board. To expedite the process, to ensure that the Finance and Revenue Committee (F&R) has the support they need as soon as possible (modeling and forecasting support), the RFP was broken out into two
 - The F&R RFP is live and will close on January 17th.
 - The F&R RFP will need a committee to evaluate applicants and make the final selection. Chair Bellanca, Vice-chair Richardson, Director Cowling and chair of the F&R Committee, Cherryl Ramirez, have all volunteered. Chair Bellanca asked Cherryl Ramirez to open the invitation to the F&R committee members.
 - The status of the rest of the RFP is that it is currently in the hands of procurement at DCBS and they are fully aware of how important it is that this needs to move forward before the biennium so the allotted funds are used and a contractor is brought on to support the board by April. Director Cowling will be following up to figure out if the board's allotted funds can stay with the board if they are not used by end of biennium, in the event that the larger RFP is not awarded by end of biennium.

New Communication Policy Follow-up: [00:16:43](#)

[Materials 5.1](#)

In the November board meeting, the board approved a change to the policies regarding member (board and committee) communication. Staff created an information document to clarify to board and committee members what the board's communication policy is.

- The Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) provided clarification to Director Cowling regarding quorum. If there is a not a quorum of a public body, the scheduled meeting cannot move forward. Otherwise, it would be less than a quorum of members discussing items that will most likely aid in making a future recommendation. There cannot be deliberations or board matter discussion with less than a quorum. If a committee needs to create a subcommittee, they can bring that request to the board. If the board approves, then the subcommittee would need to follow all public meetings laws and quorum will still apply but it will be based on the number of subcommittee members.
- As it relates to members of different committees communicating, the board's updated communication policy should be followed. If a committee has questions for another committee, those should be formalized and communicated through committee chairs at board meetings.

Through board discussion, the board agreed to strike the best practices at the end of the document and end it with one final sentence, "We encourage all board and committee members to consult with OGEC if you're not sure whether your communication will violate the law."

2025 Meeting Schedule: [00:30:47](#)

Bruce Goldberg made the motion to continue meeting on the third Thursday of every month from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. 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, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Vice-chair Judy Richardson, Bruce Goldberg, and Cherryl Ramirez

No: None

Motion passed 6-0.

The board discussed traveling for future meetings to different areas of the state to allow for community engagement in the latter half of 2025. Through discussion, the board would like the

Community Engagement and Communications Committee (CECC) to take on the initial task of determining when/where/how to ensure that it aligns with their community engagement efforts and determine what these sessions will look like. The board would like the CECC to come up with a recommendation for traveling board meetings for the board to review/approve. It should include how often, location(s), and what the community engagement would look like proceeding the scheduled board meeting. CECC Co-chair, Amy Fellows, will put this on the agenda for the January CECC meeting.

Committee Updates: [00:34:32](#)

F&R, Chair Cheryl Ramirez:

- The committee decided to use a hybrid approach to determine health expenditures based on 2022 as a baseline year and will extrapolated forward to 2028. F&R will use National Health Expenditure Accounts (NHEA) as a framework and then plugging in the best available data from the most credible data sources.
 - One committee member calculated that total health expenditures (based on extrapolating Optumas' data) is about \$20 billion, and that does not include long-term care or capital projects. This is a quick estimate starting point for the committee.
 - The committee has agreed not to spend a lot of time on presentations, but rather discussion of said presentations, which will require pre-work from committee members to ensure they review and understand the content that will be presented beforehand to allow for thorough discussion time.
- The committee has been having supplemental meetings in between regular monthly meetings, and this will continue to occur.
- The committee will be finalizing two guiding documents in the next meeting: values and principles and attributes of a financial plan.
- The committee has been discussing different taxation options. Still a lot more discussing to do around this.

Questions/Requests of other committees:

- The committee would like have a joint meeting with the Operations to discuss federal waivers and federal revenue.
- Who is able to provide legal counsel around scenarios such as how to tax income that isn't subject to the Oregon kicker? The Legislative Revenue Office advised the committee they would need to seek legal advice for that scenario.
- The committee would like to coordinate with California and Washington in some capacity to see learn more about their universal health care revenue plans.

CECC, Co-chair Amy Fellows:

- The committee has met three times.
- The committee agreed to bring a recommendation to the board that the CECC would like to provide the Plan Design and Expenditures Committee (PD&E) a scan of the community health assessment results from around the state. Through board discussion, no formal recommendation is needed to do that. Committee chairs and can provide that info to correct committee chairs without formal board recommendation approval.
- The committee was introduced to their community engagement consultant, Diana Bianco with Artemis Consulting.
- An opportunity ahead for the committee is that the charge from Senate Bill (SB) 1089 calls for engagement with businesses, stakeholders, etc., and the committee is full of members with a lot of experience with community member engagement – not as much business/healthcare provider engagement.

Questions for other committees/Additional Resources Needed:

- The committee needs a communications consultant to help with messaging.

- The committee has the question around any type of stipend for members of the public that volunteer to provide their perspective with the CECC.
- The committee would like to hear from any other states on their community engagement and communication plans as it relates to universal health care.
- Vice-chair Richardson volunteered to partner with CECC chairs about contacts in Eastern and Rural Oregon to engage with going forward.

PD&E Chair, Debbie Diaz:

- Has held two meetings
- One committee member does not have the bandwidth to participate, so they have resigned.
- The committee received a presentation from Health Management Associates (HMA) consultant, Anya Wallack, with a high level comparison of benefits between PEBB, OEBB, etc.

Questions for other committees/Additional Resources Needed:

- The committee would like to learn more about the benefits that are NOT covered by PEBB or OHP and how that data differs (i.e. infertility services, long term care, bariatric services, adult dental)
- The committee would like further clarification about the current state of behavioral and mental health services and substance use disorder services and what changes need to be made going forward with a universal plan
- The Joint Task Force was clear about no cost sharing, so the committee and board have to figure out how to come up with a plan that doesn't lose benefits from OHP and doesn't bankrupt the state. Direction from the board is needed regarding a potential tiered system and cost-sharing.

Feedback from board for PD&E:

- When digging into dental benefits, do not use OHP as a model. OHP adult dental coverage is lacking.
- As it relates to obtaining a federal waiver for Medicaid, the plan needs to ensure that no benefits are taken away from any qualifying Medicaid members or the waiver may be denied.
- Review Joint Task Force notes for language around what was discussed and recommended regarding conversations around what it would look like to provide OHP benefits to every resident, a tier system approach, etc.

Operations chair, Bruce Goldberg:

- Committee has met once and it was an introductory meeting
 - Reviewed the committee's charge, policies and procedures, workplan and Joint Task Force recommendations.
 - The next committee meeting will be focused on hearing from experts with their experience setting up public entities/corporation

Straw Proposal Review: [01:43:29](#)

[11.1](#)

The purpose of the straw proposal process is for committees to get guidance from the board on the committee's ideas/direction. The chair of each committee will delegate or complete the straw proposal form and bring that to the appropriate board meeting for discussion.

Through discussion the board agreed that additional supplemental meetings should be added, as necessary, between formal board meetings for the sole purpose of reviewing committee straw proposals. These will be much shorter, and virtual only meetings. Committee chairs will keep staff abreast of any straw proposals that their committee may have coming up so the determination can be made if a supplemental meeting is needed.

Through further board discussion, the following topics were recommended to dive further into in future meetings:

- Behavioral health – How it's currently funded and how could it be funded through a universal health care plan
- Comparison of tax burden by individual and small business separated demographically
- Tangible data that will help determine eligibility, i.e. – how many people live in Oregon and work outside the state; how many people live outside Oregon but work for an Oregon employer; how many incarcerated folks are in Oregon and what are their current benefits
- Future committee read outs by respective chairs will be focused around current committee work, committee questions for the board and committee recommendations
- During committee read outs, going forward there will be a calendar snap shot of upcoming committee meetings date/topics.

Board Outreach and Meeting Take-aways: [02:09:59](#)

Outreach:

- Cheryl Ramirez met with HCAO president, Valdez Bravo, and talked about the path forward with the F&R committee, timeline, action items and how things are working, etc.

Public Comment: [02:12:01](#)

- Alex Polikoff shared a best practice relating to Oregon's public meetings law and committee to committee communication; committee member preparation tips; and urged staff to continue to post committee meeting minutes on the website.
- Michael Huntington shared oral testimony in favor of fee-for-time physician payment.
- Bruce Thomson shared comments around the F&R RFP process and the importance of consultants supporting the committee.
- Lou Sinniger shared testimony regarding current state of insurance in healthcare; member involvement and transparency around meeting presenters and UHPGB/committee consultants.
- Valdez Bravo encouraged board members about their current call to action and the role of HCAO when the board completes their task.

Adjournment:

Debbie Diaz shared a personal healthcare story.

Chair Bellanca adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.