



Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor



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Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB) Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 2024
Minutes

Web link to the meeting video: [UHPGB May 29, 2024 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:

In-person: Chair Helen Bellanca, Vice-Chair Warren George, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Bruce Goldberg, Cherryl Ramirez

Virtually: Chunhuei Chi, Judy Richardson and Michelle Glass

Absent: none

Welcome and Introductions: [00:02:10](#)

Chair Bellanca acknowledged and thanked the public for any emails they have sent the board thus far. As of Monday, May 13, which is the 72-hour cut-off for written public comment, no official public comment submissions had been made for this board meeting.

Chair Bellanca asked each board member to introduce themselves and share their favorite place to visit in Oregon.

Approval of 4-16-24 Board Meeting Minutes:

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

Bruce Goldberg made the motion to approve the minutes and Amy Fellows provided a second to the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion to approve the minutes:

Board vote:

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

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

Executive Director's Report: [00:06:16](#)

Executive Director Morgan Cowling provided updates on the work of the staff, partnership with chair and vice chair, OHA partnership, and the board's budget.

Request(s) from the board:

- Can we get a quarterly update (in writing) on the budget regarding what has been spent and what is left?

Recruitment for Executive Director Evaluation Committee: [00:09:52](#)

During the board meeting on April 16, the board established a committee to set expectations for the executive director and evaluate this position at least once a year. At least three board members need to serve on this committee. The first order of business for the committee will be to establish the expectations for the executive director and then move on to at least a yearly evaluation. Chair Bellanca, Vice Chair George and Bruce Goldberg volunteered to serve on the ED (Executive Director) Evaluation committee.

Bruce Goldberg made the motion to approve the committee members and Cheryl Ramirez seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion to approve Executive Director Evaluation Committee members, Chair Bellanca, Vice Chair George and Bruce Goldberg:

Board vote:

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

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

UHPGB Policies and Procedures [00:11:36](#)
[Materials 5.1](#), [Materials 5.2](#), and [Materials 5.3](#).

Director Cowling advised the board that she has combined the board's feedback on the policies and procedures and delegation policy presented at the April 16 meeting and reviewed several areas of major changes in the general policies. The board discussed and provided additional feedback:

- Include a process to allow for minority opinions to be expressed when there is a vote of the board.
- Include clear language in the policies and procedures that will determine when we do a formal roll call vote OR use a consensus building tool such as fist to five to aid discussion.
- Add specific language allowing non-board members to serve on committees.
- It would be helpful for the board to have specific and consistent language to use when responding to public inquiries and interest.

Vice-Chair George said he would like to see a separate policy on community engagement as it relates to speaking and outreach.

Chair Bellanca introduced the "Fist to Five" practice to gain consensus, which can be viewed on page 7 of the meeting materials. She explained that "Fist to Five" would not replace a formal roll call vote, but rather gauge how much time the board needs to spend talking about a topic.

Director Cowling said she would add the requested board feedback to the general policies and procedures and bring it back to June's board meeting for approval. Since no board feedback was provided for the Delegation Policy, it was ready to be adopted.

Chair Bellanca called for a motion to approve the Delegation policy. Vice Chair George motioned to approve the Delegation Policy and Dr. Goldberg seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion to approve to approve UHPGB's Delegation Policy:

Board vote:

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

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

Commented [mc1]: One of the most important parts of the minutes are to capture the feedback the board provides, which should be included in the minutes.

Oregon's Health Care Coverage Efforts: [00:39:04](#)

[Materials 6.1](#)

Chair Bellanca introduced Devlin Prince, Senior Policy Analyst with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Devlin Prince was joined by his colleague Laurel Swerdlow, Health Coverage Lead at OHA. Devlin and Laurel both staffed the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. Devin led the board through a high-level presentation on the current state of health care in Oregon and the efforts OHA is making to make health care accessible for as many Oregonians as possible. The board asked the following questions, which Devlin will be taking to the appropriate divisions and follow up with the board:

- How are we doing in terms of meeting the 3.4% growth rate target?
- Will someone in your group be tracking the following items and how they will impact what you presented?
 - Medicaid billing in schools
 - Senator Gelsler Blouin's Culture of Yes bill that expanded OHP and accessing the Affordable Care Act, on the mental health side (it used to be called Pysch under 21), which allows families with kids with consistent mental health challenges access to OHP and other supports.
- Regarding the Total Cost Burden slide: Have you investigated the numbers that make up the "average"? Can we get the breakdown by income groups, such as quintile or decile, because we know that the "average" doesn't tell much of a story. We want to know the detailed story of people in the bottom 20% versus the top 20% in terms of financial burden by income groups.
- I note you're estimating \$31 billion, which is about \$8,000 per person, and that is quite short of the national estimates for healthcare expenditures in Oregon, which is about \$12,000 – \$13,000 per person. We will want to know what's included or how to get from one number to the other.
- In relation to the data around Oregonians that are uninsured - Out of those people that say they don't have insurance – how many of them are eligible for OHP and have not signed up?
- What is the churn rate for OHP?
- Can we get the out-of-pocket medical costs for Oregonians and how they've grown over the last 10 years in the commercial market?
- What is the Cost Growth Target team doing around individual out of pocket costs?
- Is there a drill down for the 2% of Oregonians who said that they were not interested in coverage as to why they were not interested? Was there any indication that cost and/or access was a reason they were not interested in coverage? Was there any further drill down in the data?
- In relation to the question that was asked earlier about the discrepancy between the spending per person in Oregon on healthcare versus the national, does that also reflect the fact that we have urban centers with concentrated healthcare provider networks and then we have our remote rural areas where provider access is a challenge? Could that discrepancy and spending per person reflect where our healthcare workforce is concentrated and not?

Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care Recommendations: [01:14:35](#)

[Materials 7.1](#)

Chair Bellanca called on Bruce Goldberg, former chair of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care, to present the work of the task force and their recommendations. Vice Chair George and Cheryl Ramirez also served as members of the task force.

Ethical Framework for Universal Health Care: [02:15:01](#)

[Ethical Foundation of a Universal Healthcare Plan](#)

Chair Bellanca called upon Chunhwei Chi to speak to the board about his broader work on the development of an ethical framework for universal health care systems and how important it will be for the board to ground their work with principles and values that the board agrees upon. Chair Bellanca suggested the board create a work group to further dive into what additional values and principles should be for the board.

Values & Principles: [02:38:15](#)

[Materials 9.1](#)

Board discussion from Chunhuei Chi's presentation led to the next topic on values and principles for the board. The board agreed that a work group should be created to further dive into these values and principles and to present their recommendations to the board at the June board meeting. Chair Bellanca asked the board for volunteers to join the Values & Principles Work Group. The following board members volunteered: Amy fellows, Vice Chair George, Chunhuei Chi, Michelle Glass, and Debra Diaz.

Vice Chair George made a motion to establish the work group with the above listed members and Cheryl Ramirez seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

Motion to approve to establish Values & Principles work group with the following members – Amy Fellows, Vice Chair George, Chunhuei Chi, Michelle Glass and Debra Diaz:

Board vote:

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

No: None

Motion passed 9-0.

UHP Work Plan Development Update: [02:43:40](#)

[Pages 65-67](#)

Director Cowling talked through the timeline for the UHPGB and the short term and long-term goals within the timeline. Director Cowling advised the board that a work group focused on the development of the work plan is needed. The board has just under 2 and half years to complete their work, with the first deliverable of providing their 1st report to the legislature by December 1. We'll want to approve the work plan that the Work Plan Development work group will propose no later than August, but we should strive to have it adopted in July. The Work Plan Development work group will also be tasked with developing thoughts and recommendations to the board about who would serve on a finance committee, what outside experts will be needed, and develop a timeline for financing. The Work Plan Development work group will review a draft workplan at their first meeting. The following board members volunteered to join the Work Plan Development work group: Vice Chair George, Debra Diaz, Cheryl Ramirez, Bruce Goldberg, Amy Fellows, Michelle Glass, and Chair Bellanca. Chair Bellanca called for a motion to create the Work Plan Development work group.

Bruce Goldberg motioned and Cheryl Ramirez seconded. There was no board discussion.

Motion to establish Work Plan Development work group with the following members – Vice Chair George, Chair Bellanca, Debra Diaz, Cheryl Ramirez, Bruce Goldberg, Amy Fellows, and Michelle Glass.

Board vote:

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

No: None


Motion passed 9-0.

Public Comment: [02:52:23](#)

How to submit public comment can be found [here](#).

Chair Bellanca called on those members of the public who signed up to speak to the board. There was one request to provide oral testimony, Richard Walsh, HCAO.

Adjournment:



Chair Bellanca shared the following quote: “No ray of sunshine is ever lost, but the green which it awakens into existence needs time to sprout, and it is not always granted for the sower to see the harvest. All work that is worth anything is done in faith.” - Albert Schweitzer
Debra Diaz volunteered to provide the quote for the June board meeting. Chair Bellanca adjourned the meeting at 12 p.m.