



**COLORADO**

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

## **Accountable Care Collaborative Program Improvement Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

**January 20, 2020 // 9:30 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.**

### **1. Welcome**

Kiara Kuenzler welcomed members to the Program Improvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:34am.

### **2. Introductions**

The following voting members were in attendance: Catania Jones, Christina Suh, Dan Casey, Daniel Darting, Dede de Percin, Donald Moore, Ian Engle, Joanna Martinson, Joseph Prezioso, Kelly Phillips-Henry, Kiara Kuenzler, Lila Cummings, Maria Zubia, Maribel Sandoval, Michael Aragon, Steve Johnson, Tom Keller, and Wendy Nading.

*A quorum of voting members was present.*

### **3. PIAC Expectations**

Kiara presented that the expectations set the tone for the PIAC community and should model problem solving and creating creative solutions. Kiara asked members what expectations were essential for this group to move towards action next steps.

Kiara next presented PIAC strategic framework to clarify role of the PIAC. There were three pieces to the framework: policy and financing, operational excellence, and regional innovation. The intersection of the three was PIAC's "sweet spot."

There were comments regarding the strategic framework. Specifically, voting members wanted to understand how the points of intersection operated, what the feedback loop between the Department and the PIAC looked like, and how to increase communication with the regional PIACs and member experience and advisory committees (MEACs).

Kiara said the group would revisit this framework during future meetings of the retreats and asked the group to continue reviewing it and to bring forth other questions.

#### Action Items:

- The Department will aggregate expectations for PIAC's review in February.
- PIAC will review the strategic framework for February.

### **4. Co-Chair Nominations**

Ben Harris presented a procedural revision concerning the selection of PIAC leadership in section 3 of current PIAC by-laws. The section currently states that the PIAC shall elect two (2)

co-chair for two-year terms. However, it should say four-year terms. Ben called for a vote on the revision, and it passed with 18 yeses.

Ben provided an overview of the co-chair nomination process. Nominations must come from new members due to staggered membership approach for continuity within PIAC. Ben stated nomination must come from a peer and that nominations are open until February 3<sup>rd</sup>. After that time, Ben and Milena will chat with the nominees, and names will be brought forth to the next meeting for a quick chat after which a vote will commence.

The group approved this process.

#### Action Items:

- PIAC will submit Co-Chair nominations to Ben Harris by COB February 3, 2021.

## **5. Department Presentation and ACC Phase II Discussion**

Kiara introduced Tracy Johnson, the Department's Medicaid Director. Tracy gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in Colorado. Colorado has seen a jump in recent months due to the second wave, but also because the state is doing more testing. Messages have been sent to Medicaid providers urging them to get vaccinated since nearly every provider who sees patients is eligible. This includes Medicaid only providers: NEMT, behavioral health providers, homeless shelter workers and other settings. The Department is collaborating with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to understand prioritization, where non-Medicaid resources are, and how Department payment policy and messaging can echo CDPHE's approach and connect to hard-to-reach populations. More information can be found on CDPHE's [website](#).

The group had questions regarding the placement of educators within CDPHE's vaccination approach and how underserved communities would be outreached. Tracy requested that if the group had any ideas on the latter to submit them to Ben.

Tracy gave a brief budget update for the Department. For state fiscal year 2020-2021, the Department submitted a budget request for \$12.336B, and final appropriation funds were \$12.034B. Budget is adjusted based on expected growth of membership. Tracy mentioned that leadership is usually working on next year's budget about a year in advance, and when there are unusual things going on, like a pandemic, it can be challenging and confusing for leadership and stakeholders. The Department will keep PIAC updated on this item as necessary.

Ben introduced Jeff Eggert, ACC Division Director, to discuss the progress of ACC Phase II. Jeff reminded PIAC that just as the ACC was moving from implementation to program management the COVID pandemic hit. As a result, the signals used to see how well the ACC is operating have been complicated. Jeff reminded the group that the ACC is meant to be iterative. It evolves as the healthcare system changes.



Jeff discussed the key components of the ACC: The Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs), the primary care home model, the comprehensive community-based system of behavioral health benefits, and the foundation of performance data. Jeff reviewed the components of the Department's performance portfolio, which are Key Performance Indicators (KPI), Behavioral Health Incentive Plan (BHIP), Performance Pools (PP), and Medical Loss Ratio (MLR), and discussed recent performance trends for some of these measures.

The group asked about key lessons learned in the past two years. Jeff said the Department experienced challenges particularly with adapting to the COVID pandemic. Jeff said the Department is working to improve care coordination, health neighborhoods, to ensure accountability and transparency, and to monitor performance.

A few members proposed that PIAC focus its conversations on critical performance outcomes and understand why the ACC is or is not performing optimally. The group asked for further feedback from the Department around what those critical items should be.

#### Action Items

- PIAC will submit ideas for out-reaching hard-to-reach members to Ben Harris.
- The Department will present further feedback around critical items for the ACC in February.

### **6. Housekeeping and Next Steps**

Ben reminded the group that the Department provided the monthly ACC operational dashboard as part of the meeting materials.

Ben also said that PIAC would be revising its Charter and By-Laws based on the past two years of operations. If PIAC members had revisions suggestions, please submit them to Ben by February 3, 2021.

Given the length of the conversation, Kiara and Ben also put forth a proposal to continue the retreat in March. The group agreed to consider the proposal. Ben said he would follow up via email.

Action items from the meeting were as follows:

- The Department will aggregate expectations for PIAC's review in February.
- PIAC will review the strategic framework for February.
- PIAC will submit Co-Chair nominations to Ben Harris by COB February 3, 2021.
- PIAC will submit ideas for out-reaching hard-to-reach members to Ben Harris.
- The Department will present further feedback around critical items for the ACC in February.
- PIAC will submit Charter and By-Law recommendations to Ben Harris by February 3, 2021.
- The Department will facilitate a vote for PIAC members regarding extending the retreat into March.



Kiara adjourned the meeting at 12:17pm.

