



CHASE

Colorado Healthcare Affordability and
Sustainability Enterprise

Meeting Minutes

Colorado Healthcare Affordability & Sustainability Enterprise (CHASE) Board Meeting

Via [Zoom](#)

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 3:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- a. Patrick Gordon, Chair, 3:01 p.m.
- b. Members present: Jeremy Springston, Ryan Westrom, Bob Vasil, Margo Karsten, Dr. Kim Jackson, Jason Amrich, Patrick Gordon, Mannat Singh, George Lyford, Dr. Claire Reed, Scott Lindblom
- c. Members absent: Matt Colussi, Jon Alford

2. Approve Minutes from November 19, 2024 Meeting

- a. Board members, 3:03 pm
- b. Minutes approved.

3. CHASE Workgroup Update

- a. Nancy Dolson, HCPF, 3:04 pm
- b. Nancy Dolson shared that the first workgroup meeting was held on December 16, 2024, to review and discuss a potential state directed payments program.
- c. Notes from this meeting are available on the [workgroup's webpage](#), along with the bi-weekly schedule.
- d. Jason Amrich reiterated that one of the goals for the workgroup is to present a recommendation to the board by July 1, 2025, and shared his sense of urgency to hit that timeline.
- e. Mannat Singh asked the board to consider the impact that future

legislation may have on the workgroup and the CHASE going forward.

- i. Patrick Gordon replied that he was also keeping a close eye on legislation, but that the current goal is to focus and develop a model that is compliant with federal guidelines.
 - ii. Mannat Singh emphasized that she hopes that the board will honor the workgroup and the state agency's work and help them to recommend something that won't be in conflict with other policies or politics.
- f. Patrick Gordon said that he's very pleased that the workgroup came into being so quickly. He also said that in previous conversations with the board, there was a heavy focus on transparency and that more board meetings or more frequent communications may be needed in order to keep up with the work of the workgroup.

4. Draft 2025 CHASE Report

- a. Nancy Dolson, HCPF, 3:15 pm
- b. Nancy Dolson gave an overview of the [draft report](#) (see [slide deck](#), slides 5-14).
- c. The report included the increased payments in fiscal year 2023-24 to 99.25% of the upper payment limit. The Medical Services Board approved the updated model and those additional payments were sent out on Monday, December 16.
- d. Highlights of the report include itemization of fees from and payments to hospitals, administrative expenses, the cost shift of payer mix, and the Hospital Transformation Program (HTP).
- e. Upon board approval, the report will be sent to the Colorado Senate and House Health and Human Services Committees, the Joint Budget Committee and the Medical Services Board.
- f. Nancy Dolson then reviewed the written comments made by

board members and the responses/edits made.

- i. Certain discrepancies in dollar amounts across the report have to do with the difference between the state fiscal year and the federal fiscal year.
 - ii. Corrections will be made to fix historical data.
- g. Ryan Westrom said that it seemed like all issues had been addressed. He mentioned that showing the old calculation method and new calculation method tables next to each other on the report may be confusing.
 - i. Nancy Dolson asked the board if they had ideas or opinions on how to better segregate the old and new methodologies for clarity. She suggested a footnote could be added to remind readers that the methodology changed in 2019, so the data from prior years may be different in 2018 and earlier, and remove Table 30 to alleviate potential confusion.
 - ii. Ryan Westrom agreed that seemed like a good solution.
 - iii. Patrick Gordon also agreed.
- h. Dr. Claire Reed mentioned that keeping the old data seemed important and that only adding a footnote may not be a clear enough differentiation. She suggested that the clarifying information be more prominent.
 - i. Nancy Dolson agreed and suggested using a call out box to make the information easier to find.
- i. Patrick Gordon asked if the board would need to reconvene to approve the report after the suggested changes had been made, or if the board would need to take further action today.
 - i. Nancy Dolson said that she hoped that there would be a motion to make the suggested changes and approve the report today.

5. Hospital Quality Incentive Payment (HQIP) Scoring Recommendations

- a. Matt Haynes, HCPF, 3:54 pm
- b. Matt Haynes reviewed the recommendations for the HQIP program (see slides 15-27).
- c. The recommendations include scoring distributions for the Cesarean section measure, the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) measure, and a review of changes seen in HCAHPS composites.
- d. The HQIP subcommittee chose to explore alternatives after they couldn't reach a consensus in August 2024 on the C-section scoring distribution, due to a regression from 2023 tiers.
- e. Three alternate proposals were presented, and the subcommittee selected to adopt fixed calculated bounds integrating all C-section rates from 2020-2024.
- f. Jason Amrich asked why the subcommittee chose this option specifically instead of the other proposals.
 - i. Matt Haynes responded that the fixed bounds option gives a set benchmark to strive for rather than a downwards trend that would take away from the efficacy of the program.
- g. Matt Haynes then presented recommendations for HCAHPS Composites 5-7 (slides 23-25).
 - i. The subcommittee approved and recommended the 2024 calculated bounds for all composites, as trends have remained mostly consistent year-over-year.
- h. Composite 7 (Care Transitions) will be retired after calendar year 2025.
 - i. The data will still be available for HQIP 2025 but not for

2026.

- ii. The subcommittee agreed on a replacement composite for 2026 (Communication with Nurses).
- iii. For HQIP 2027, a new composite (Care Coordination) is proposed to replace Care Transitions. The subcommittee is also considering expanding HCAHPS composites for 2027 and after.

6. Hospital Transformation Program (HTP) Update, Severity Adjusted Length of Stay Measure

- a. Matt Haynes, HCPF, 4:15 pm
- b. Matt Haynes went over the HTP [handout](#) and discussed why the Department decided to change the measure for SW-PH1 (Severity Loss of Stay) measure (see slides 28-35).
 - i. Some reasons for the change include aligning with current hospital intervention efforts and not requiring hospitals to implement new interventions.
 - ii. All at-risk hospitals will be awarded for the measure for program year (PY) 3.
- c. Inpatient Hospital Transitions (IHT) will replace the measure, measuring hospitals' existing interventions around care coordination and utilization review.
 - i. Hospitals will be required to participate in the IHT program and adherence will be measured in PY4 and PY5. PY4 performance tracking will begin on January 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025. PY5 will be tracked from October 1, 2025, to September 20, 2026.
- d. Bob Vasil voiced concern over the new measure and the lack of control they have over the response time of the transition questionnaires from regional accountable entities (RAEs). He asked the Department to be listening to feedback from hospitals

as they receive this information and consider changes when possible.

7. Public Comment, 4:19 pm

- a. Bethany Pray asked about the C-section and HCAHPS measures, whether they were changed because there was observed improvement or for another reason, and asked for clarity. She also commented on the merits of outcome measures versus process measures.
- b. James McLaughlin, representing the Colorado Medical Services Board, asked if there was anything for which the CHASE board would like support or information regarding.
 - i. Nancy Dolson and Patrick Gordon thanked James McLaughlin and the Medical Services Board for their presence and offer.

8. Board Action Items, 4:23 pm

- a. CHASE Annual Report
 - i. Patrick Gordon asked for a motion to approve the report with all edits and suggestions from this meeting.
 - ii. Dr. Kim Jackson motioned to approve, Dr. Claire Reed seconded.
 - iii. The board approved the report unanimously. None opposed.
 - iv. Nancy Dolson will send the edited report out to the board for final review before publishing.
- b. HQIP Recommendations
 - i. 2024 C-section Scoring Distribution Recommendation
 - ii. 2024 HCAHPS Scoring Distribution Recommendation
 - iii. Jason Amrich motioned to approve, Bob Vasil seconded.

- iv. Mannat Singh commented about the performance regression and the recalculated bounds for these measures. She asked for further explanation about the thinking that preempted those changes.
 - 1. Matt Haynes explained that instead of taking the previous year's data, the new method would take the previous five years' data to set the new benchmarks, as the subcommittee agreed. He offered to get Mannat Singh more details.
- v. Patrick Gordon said that moving forward when taking formal action, the board will take a roll call vote.

9. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

10. Next meeting: February 25, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. via [Zoom](#)

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