

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

Meeting of March 28, 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Start Time: 12:05 PM

End Time: 12:33 PM

| | Present? | ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes | ITEM 2: Vice Chair Appointment | ITEM 3: 2017 Cost Trends Report |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Stuart Altman* | X | X | M | X |
| Don Berwick | X | X | X | X |
| Martin Cohen | X | 2nd | X | X |
| David Cutler | X | X | X | X |
| Wendy Everett | X | M | abs | M |
| Timothy Foley | X | X | X | X |
| Chris Kryder | X | X | X | X |
| Rick Lord | X | A | A | A |
| Ron Mastrogiovanni | X | X | 2 nd | X |
| Sec. Marylou Sudders | X | X | X | X |
| Sec. Michael Heffernan | X | X | X | 2 nd |
| Summary | 11 Members Attended | Approved with 11 votes in the affirmative | Approved with 10 votes in the affirmative | Approved with 11 votes in the affirmative |

Presented below is a summary of the meeting, including time-keeping, attendance, and votes.

*Chairman

(M): Made motion; (2nd): Seconded motion; (ab): Abstained from Vote; (A): Absent from Meeting

Proceedings

A regular meeting of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) was held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018. This meeting was rescheduled from March 8, 2018 due to a weather emergency.

Commissioners present included Dr. Stuart Altman (Chair); Dr. Wendy Everett (Vice Chair); Dr. Don Berwick; Mr. Martin Cohen; Dr. David Cutler; Mr. Timothy Foley; Dr. Chris Kryder; Mr. Ron Mastrogiovanni; Secretary Marylou Sudders, Executive Office of Health and Human Services; and Ms. Elizabeth Denniston, designee for Secretary Michael Heffernan, Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

Mr. Rick Lord joined the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Dr. Altman called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM and welcomed those present. He noted that the day's meeting would be followed by a public hearing on the potential modification of the 2019 health care cost growth benchmark.

Representative Jeffrey Roy, Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance, introduced the members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives present at the meeting. He offered brief remarks in remembrance of Chairman Peter Kocot, who passed away earlier in the year. He asked for a moment of silence.

Dr. Altman thanked the members of the Legislature for attending the day's meeting. He lauded their work in Massachusetts to develop Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012, the centerpiece of health policy discussions around the country. He noted that a central tenant of Chapter 224 is the health care cost growth benchmark, which has become a standard against which organizations are measuring their performance in the marketplace.

Dr. Altman provided a brief background on the health care cost growth benchmark. He noted that the HPC is looking to those testifying at the day's public hearing to better understand the impact of adjusting the benchmark. He noted that the Board will vote to set the benchmark at its April 2018 meeting.

Vice Chair Roy provided opening remarks on the potential modification of the 2019 health care cost growth benchmark. For full remarks, please see the recording from the meeting ([here](#)).

Dr. Altman moved to the formal Board meeting agenda. He introduced Dr. Chris Kryder, HPC's newest Board member. He noted that Dr. Kryder was appointed by the Governor to the Board seat designated for a primary care physician.

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 31, 2018

Dr. Altman solicited comments on the minutes from January 31, 2018. Seeing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Dr. Everett** made a motion to approve the minutes. **Mr. Cohen** seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

ITEM 2: COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Dr. Altman motioned to reappoint Dr. Everett as Vice Chair of the Board for a term of one year.

Mr. Mastrogiovanni seconded. Dr. Everett was unanimously reappointed as Vice Chair of the Health Policy Commission.

ITEM 3: MARKET OVERSIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY

Mr. Seltz welcomed the members of the Massachusetts Legislature to the meeting. He noted that, prior to the public hearing, Board members would be asked to vote to issue the 2017 Health Care Cost Trends Report.

Mr. Seltz noted that HPC staff presented the findings and recommendations from the 2017 Report at previous Board meetings.

Dr. Altman stated that he and the Board had a chance to review the report. He asked for a motion to approve and publish the report. **Dr. Everett** made the motion to issue the 2017 Cost Trends Report. **Ms. Denniston** seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Altman commended the staff for their thorough presentations on this report.

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Seltz provided an overview of the upcoming public hearing on the potential modification of the 2019 health care cost growth benchmark. He noted that the meeting would include a series of research presentations from the HPC as well as testimony from members of the public.

The Board meeting adjourned at 12:32 PM.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC HEARING

Following the Board meeting, the HPC held a public hearing on the potential modification of the 2019 health care cost growth benchmark. For more information, see the full agenda ([here](#)) and the recording of the hearing ([here](#)).