**Special Commission to Study Pancreatic Cancer**

Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2019

3:00 -5:00 pm

**Date of meeting:** Thursday, June 27, 2019

**Start time:** 3:03pm

**End time:** 4:49pm

**Location:** Charles River Conference Room, 10th Floor, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108

**Members present:**

* Lauren Peters – Executive Office of Health and Human Services
* Joshua Nyambose—Department of Public Health
* Niels Puetthoff—Division of Insurance
* Jody Quinn—Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
* Cynthia Callahan, RN—Patient Advocate
* Doug Shatford—Pancreatic Cancer Caregiver
* Andrea Cleghorn—Survivor
* Dr. Giles Whalen—UMass Memorial Health Care
* Dr. Andrew Warshaw—Massachusetts General Hospital
* Carole Siegel – Patient Advocate
* Brian Rosman, on behalf of Senator Jo Comerford—Massachusetts Senate
* Dr. Brian Wolpin—Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**Members absent:**

* Representative John Mahoney—Massachusetts House of Representatives
* Janice Griffin—Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

**Members calling in:**

* Brock N. Cordeiro—Patient Advocate

**Proceedings:**

The Vice Chair, Ms. Callahan, called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.

**Vote: Mr. Shatford introduced a motion to accept the minutes of the April 23rd meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Cleghorn and unanimously approved, by roll call.**

The Vice Chair opened the conversation by summarizing the structure of the document that the Commission would be working from, which compiles all draft recommendations by topic. She expressed her desire to go through each of the recommendations, editing as a group, with the goal of “realistic recommendations that we can make to the legislature.” Mr. Rosman agreed, emphasizing the importance of putting forth items that are “achievable and reasonable.” Undersecretary Peters echoed this, and noted that it would be helpful to “identify the levers” for each item, whether it would be implemented via legislation or through other pathways.

Dr. Warshaw inquired about whether there was a goal in mind of the number of recommendations for the Commission to put forth. The Vice Chair replied that the Commission will recommend “as many as we deem necessary,” but noted that many of the items in the current draft would be “weeded out” in discussion.

Dr. Whalen arrived at 3:09pm.

The Commission proceeded to discuss each draft recommendation [starting on page 4 of the appended meeting materials], deciding which items to remove, keep, revise, and group together.

It was decided that Mr. Puetthoff would look into the possibility of the Division of Insurance (DOI) surveying major insurance carriers to understand their coverage policies around screening and genetic testing for pancreatic cancer. Undersecretary Peters agreed look into the same question for MassHealth coverage policies.

Furthermore, the group agreed to revisit the 2014 Mandated Benefit Review of S.B. 471., conducted by the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) , to examine the stated medical necessity criteria for coverage of screening. They agreed to review this document and determine if a second CHIA analysis would be helpful, using new criteria put forth by the Commission.

Several members noted their inability to attend the next meeting, in July, and it was agreed that if a significant number could not attend, this meeting would be cancelled, and members would re-convene in August.

**Vote: Ms. Quinn introduced a motion for the meeting to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously approved, by roll call.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm.