

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**July 10, 2023**  
**MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION**

## Proceedings

A meeting of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission's (HPC) Administration and Finance (ANF) Committee was held on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 2:00 PM. Meeting materials are available on the HPC's [website](#).

Commissioners present included: Ms. Deborah Devaux (Chair); Mr. Marty Cohen (Vice Chair); Ms. Patricia Houpt; Mr. Ron Mastrogiovanni; and Ms. Martha Kwasnik, designee for Secretary Gorzkowicz, Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

Ms. Devaux welcomed the committee members and gave an overview of the agenda.

### **ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes from the January 24, 2023 Meeting**

Ms. Devaux called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2023, meeting. Ms. Houpt made the motion. Mr. Cohen seconded it. The minutes were approved with four votes in the affirmative and one abstention.

### **ITEM 2: HPC's Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Operating Budget**

Mr. David Seltz, Executive Director introduced Ms. Hannah Kloomok, Acting Chief of Staff, Ms. Suzy Roberts, Deputy Chief of Staff, Internal Affairs, and Ms. Teresa Yan, Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO), to the committee.

Mr. Seltz provided an overview of the HPC's FY23 operating budget including background on the HPC's budget, funding sources, the breakdown of the budget by category, and summary of the FY 23 annual assessment.

### **ITEM 3: HPC Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Spending Plan**

Mr. Seltz provided an overview of the HPC's FY24 spending plan including the FY24 budget proposal by the legislature, the HPC's budget request, and a breakdown of the FY24 budget by category.

Mr. Mastrogiovanni asked a clarifying question about whether the payroll increase reflected both additional consultants and full-time staff. Mr. Seltz said that it reflects payroll for FTEs and reflects the assumption that the HPC will hire approximately 2-3 new employees during FY24.

Mr. Cohen asked if any outside language in the House or Senate budget could potentially change or increase responsibilities for the HPC that could impact the HPC's budget. Ms. Kloomok said that none of the outside sections in either the House or Senate budget directly prescribe new activities for the HPC but noted that there are some new responsibilities for HPC in some items within the purview of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and may require the purchase of additional data sets for research reports and other expenses during the year.

Mr. Seltz noted that the HPC received a number of mandates in the *Mental Health ABC Act*, and that those mandates did not come with additional funding for the HPC. He said that the HPC's rationale behind requesting that the unexpected, remaining balance from FY23 budget be moved into the new fiscal year's budget to accommodate for any additional expenses that may ensue in the coming year.

Mr. Mastrogiovanni asked for additional context on referring to the HPC's budget as conservative. Mr. Seltz responded that the HPC tried to propose an efficient budget with

the lowest possible budget increase necessary to maintain the HPC's resources. He noted that the HPC's current budget does come in below the health care cost growth benchmark. Mr. Seltz said the pandemic allowed the HPC to have an unexpected remaining balance at the end of fiscal year, but he does not think that an unexpected remaining balance will continue in years to come.

#### **ITEM 4: HPC Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Responsibilities and Outcomes**

Mr. Seltz provided a brief overview of the HPC's 2023 plan for action and noted that the current budget recommendation will continue to support the priority areas of the agency identified at the beginning of 2023. Mr. Seltz provided a preview of the HPC-related work outlined in the FY24 budgets, including a Behavioral Health Services Rate Study and Behavioral Health Workforce Study.

Ms. Devaux said that she understands and supports the HPC's choice to maintain a tight and efficient budget for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Seltz also highlighted the two trust funds which support the HPC's currently active investment programs and do not fund staff salaries. Mr. Seltz said that the HPC's three active grant programs – MassUP, BESIDE, and C4SEN – will end in FY24. He said that there is an unallocated balance in the trust funds that is available and he looks forward to future discussion regarding the creation of new grant programs in the coming year.

Ms. Devaux asked if there was a timeline as to when the funds would need to be spent. Mr. Seltz said that there is no deadline, as the balance of the trust funds rolls over automatically every year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.