

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of February 27, 2023

State Issues

Office of Health Care Affordability

This week the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) announced the new members of the Health Care Affordability Board, which is set to guide the work of the Office of Health Care Affordability:

- Dr. David Carlisle, President and CEO of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
- Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency
- Dr. Sandra Hernandez, President and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation
- Dr. Richard Kronick, Professor in the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health, University of California, San Diego
- Elizabeth Mitchell, President and CEO of the Purchaser Business Group on Health
- Don Moulds, Chief Health Director of the California Public Employee Retirement System [*non-voting member*]
- Ian Lewis, Political and Research director of the National Union of Health Care Workers
- Dr. Richard Pan, a pediatrician and former state Senator

In the announcement HCAI stated that “The eight-member Board has a broad range of expertise and experience....”, but there is a concern that many of the board members have no experience in the health care provider community. While they all have decades of experience in health care purchasing or policymaking, the lack of active participants in the evolving delivery of health care may limit their ability to provide “real world” expertise.

The Board is charged with setting statewide and sector-specific spending targets, appointing a Health Care Affordability Advisory Committee, and approving key benchmarks, such as alternative payment model adoption and the share of spending dedicated to primary care and behavioral health. Board members may not receive compensation from health care entities.

Next Steps. The first meeting of the Health Care Affordability Board will be March 21, 2023. Early in its process, the Board will be appointing the Health Care Affordability Advisory Committee. This committee will provide input to the Board on topics ranging from spending targets to benchmarks for adoption of alternative payment models. For additional information about the Advisory Committee’s role, eligibility criteria, and the process for expressing interest in membership, please view the [Advisory Committee Submission of Interest Form](#).

For more information on the Office of Health Care Affordability and the Health Care Affordability Board, or to [subscribe to OHCA’s distribution list](#), visit the [webpage](#).

(more)

<p>Assembly Hearing on Behavioral Health</p>	<p>This week, the Assembly Health Committee and the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services held a joint hearing on California’s Mental Health Initiatives. This oversight hearing is part of the interest of the Governor and Legislature in providing more oversight into the use of funds already appropriated in previous budget cycles. The Committee published a Background paper and the Agenda.</p> <p>Dr. Jim Wood began the hearing by noting that 1 in 7 California adults have a mental illness of some kind and 1 in 14 children have a serious mental illness that limits their daily life functioning. He acknowledged the diversity of mental health policy and funding programs: located in a variety of state departments like education, housing and of course health care, and covering a variety of subjects including infrastructure, workforce, or a redesign of the delivery of services. He highlighted the costliness of services, and the fact that many of the initiatives funded in recent years have not yet been fully implemented. Dr. Wood declared that the state is in a mental health crisis; and this was echoed by other legislators and panelists.</p> <p>Katie Heidorn, the new State Policy Director for the California Health Care Foundation, led the first panel in a broad overview of the mental health system. Joining her on the panel included representatives from <i>California Pan-Ethnic Health Network</i> and the Legislative Analyst’s Office. The overview panel was followed by a panel of state officials reviewing the status and impact of a variety of recent initiatives including speakers from the California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services and the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission. A final stakeholder panel included the perspective from counties – highlighting rural counties, the California Behavioral Health Directors and the California Alliance of Child and Family Services.</p> <p>You can access the slide deck and other materials on the Budget Subcommittee website via: https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/sub1hearingagendas.</p>
--	--

For more information, please contact Lori Dangberg at 1215 K Street, Suite 2000 ■ Sacramento, CA 95814
916.591.3991 or e-mail: ldangberg@thealliance.net