



Meeting Minutes: Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Date: 10/14/2025
Minutes prepared by: Julie Olson
Location: Wilder Center, Conference Rooms C&D – 451 Lexington Avenue, St. Paul. MN 55104

Note: the October 14, 2025 meeting agenda and presented materials are available on the [PDAB webpage](#).

Attendance

Members present:

1. Craig Acomb (online)
2. Erica Barnes
3. Anthony Lourey – chair (online)
4. Sayeh Nikpay - vice chair
5. Stephen Schondelmeyer
6. Matthew Anderson (online)
7. Matt Toburen

Members Absent:

1. Representative Micheal Howard
2. Senator Liz Boldon

Attorney General's Office and Commerce staff present:

1. James Canaday (AGO)
2. Vernon Rowen (PDAB executive director)

Agenda Items

The Minnesota Prescription Drug Affordability Board (Board) convened Tuesday, October 14, 2025. With Chair Lourey participating online, Vice Chair, Dr. Sayeh Nikpay, presided over the meeting calling it to order at 10:45 AM announcing that a quorum was present.

1. Approve meeting agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved without objections or amendments.

2. Approve minutes for the August 12th meeting

Minutes from the September 5, 2025, meeting were approved as written and will be published on the website.

3. Data Project Presentation and Discussion

Executive Director Vernon Rowen explained that the PDAB is beginning to design and build its drug review process. As background he provided an overview of drug review processes and data collection methods used by the Colorado PDAB, Maryland PDAB, ICER, and CMS, focusing on the data collected, the drug review process, drug selection criteria, and stakeholder input process for each entity. Upcoming steps for the PDAB include: 1.) Gathering the list of drugs for potential review based statutory requirements and input from the PDAAC, state purchasers, and the public; 2.) developing the review process; and 3.) Choosing specific drugs for review.

4. Discussion with PDAAC Board Chair, Jessica Intermill

Jessica Intermill, PDAAC interim chair, shared a personal story illustrating real-life impacts of unaffordable drugs and access challenges. She stressed that patient costs extend beyond copays to premiums and deductibles, and that system-level costs eventually impact everyone. She advocated for the PDAB to start with drugs for which Medicare has already set a Maximum Fair Price. She also emphasized that PDAAC is eager to assist the PDAB in identifying drugs for potential review.

5. Executive Director's update

Executive Director Rowen reported on several staff and Board activities that have taken place since the last meeting. Rowen laid out a three-phase plan for developing a governance framework for the PDAB board including drafting governance documents, creating a governance handbook, and providing governance training to the board.

He also detailed upcoming patient outreach efforts including an in-person listening session scheduled at Wilder Center for October 30, 2025. He indicated that the plan is to hold patient listening sessions every other month and alternate between in-person and virtual listening sessions to expand participation, with efforts to gather diverse stories and patient experiences from all parts of the state.

6. Public comments

Rainier Simons, speaking on behalf of the Community Access National Network, urged the PDAB to focus on the specific needs of Minnesotans and ensure patient access to medications is not compromised as it develops and conducts its drug review process.

Adjournment

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.