

## DRAFT

# Meeting Minutes: Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Date: 11/18/2025  
Minutes prepared by: Vernon Rowen  
Location: Summit University Conference Room, The Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Pkwy N  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Note: the November 18, 2025 meeting agenda and presented materials are available on the [PDAB webpage](#).

## Attendance

### Members present:

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

### 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, November 18, 2025. Chair Lourey called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM and announced that a quorum was present.

### 1. Approve meeting agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved without objection or amendment.

## **2. Approve minutes for the October 14, 2025 meeting**

The October 14, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as written and will be published on the website.

## **3. Data Project Update**

Executive Director Rowen reported recent activities of the Data Project including establishment of a PDAB SharePoint site, obtaining state of Minnesota email addresses for PDAB Board members, and requesting data from MDH for the drugs meeting the criteria established in MN 62J.90 cross referenced with the drugs of substantia public interest established in 62J.84. The Data Project team continues to meet on a bi-weekly basis.

## **4. Presentation by Grace Baehren, Minnesota Data Practices Office**

Grace Baehren from the Minnesota Data Practices Office provided the Board with an overview of data practices and open meeting requirements in the state of Minnesota.

## **5. Presentation by Galen Benshoof, State Employee Group Insurance Program**

Galen Benshoof, Enterprise Director of Employee Insurance at Minnesota Management and Budget spoke to the Board about prescription drug spending in the State Employee Group Insurance Program which he manages. Benshoof detailed drug spending trends in the program explaining drug costs have consistently risen 11-12% since 2021. He highlighted spending on GLP1 drugs for weight loss which rose from \$1 per member/per month in 2021 to \$47 per member/per month in 2024. GLP1 drugs for weight loss now account for 10% of the overall healthcare costs of the program.

## **6. Governance Project Presentation**

Rowen and Stacy Sjogren, Senior Consultant with Minnesota Management and Budget, provided an overview of the process the Board will engage in over the next several months to develop governance documents for the PDAB. Sjogren reviewed a draft Executive Director Delegation Policy and Rowen asked Board members to provide comments to him. Based on comments received, a revised policy will be reviewed at the December Board meeting. Rowen explained that a series of governing policies will be reviewed by the Board through May of 2026. These policies will be adopted as a package once complete.

## **7. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Rowen reported on several staff and Board activities that have taken place since the last meeting including an in-person patient listening session held October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Overall, 30 patients registered for the event and 16 of those attended. Eight patients provided comments, explaining affordability challenges they face and identifying specific drugs that pose a challenge. Rowen indicated that a virtual patient listening session is scheduled the evening of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Board members stressed the importance of documenting the specific drugs mentioned by patients in these sessions. Chair Lourey indicated a list of drugs from these sessions will be compiled and included in the list of drugs the PDAB considers for review.

## **8. Public comments**

Comments were offered by Rainer Simmons representing the Community Access National Network, as well as himself as a patient. Mr. Simmons encouraged the PDAB to post recordings of PDAB meetings

and public comments received by the Board on its website. He also expressed his belief that defining affordability should be a top priority for the PDAB.

## **Adjournment**

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.