

Meeting Minutes: Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Date: 2/10/2026

Minutes Prepared by: Vernon Rowen

Location: University Summit Conference Room, The Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Pkwy N
St. Paul, MN 55104

Note: the February 10, 2026 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
4. Sayeh Nikpay - vice chair
5. Stephen Schondelmeyer
6. Matthew Anderson
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, February 10, 2026. Chair Lourey called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and announced that a quorum was present.

1. Welcome

2. Approve meeting agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously with no amendment.

3. Approve minutes for the January 13, 2026, meeting

The January 13, 2026, meeting minutes were approved with one technical amendment and will be published on the website.

4. Presentation by Chad Hope

The Board received a presentation from Chad Hope, Director Pharmacy Program and Medicaid Decision Support, Minnesota Department of Human Services, who provided an overview of the state's Medicaid program and how it purchases prescription drugs. Hope reviewed: covered drugs and funding; the fee-for-service vs. managed care programs; participating pharmacies; reimbursement rates; drug rebates; and general program statistics

5. Presentation by the Health Care Distribution Alliance

Hannah Seitzinger, representing the Health Care Distribution Alliance (HAD), provided an overview of the role pharmaceutical distributors (wholesalers) play in the prescription drug delivery chain.

6. Presentation by Scott Pace, Partner, Impact Management Group

Scott Pace, consultant for HAD, provided an overview of the role Pharmacy Services Administrative Organizations (PSAOs) play in the prescription drug delivery chain.

7. Data Project Update

Executive Director Rowen updated the Board on the work of the PDAB Data Project. He provided an overview of the lists of drugs that the PDAB might consider for potential affordability reviews. These lists include the drugs that meet the criteria established in statute, drugs identified by patients during listening sessions, and drugs for which CMS has or will set Maximum Fair Prices. These lists will be combined along with the Drugs of Substantial Public Interest list created by MDH to create a master list from which drugs will be chosen by the PDAB for review.

8. Executive Director's Report

Rowen reported that he is currently in the process of contracting with the University of Minnesota School Pharmacy to support the work of the Data Project and hopes to have a contract in place by March 1, 2026. Rowen also reported that a patient listening session with the Minnesota Rural Health Association is scheduled for February 13, 2026.

9. Governance Project Presentation

Rowen and MMB consultant Stacy Sjogren continued review of draft Governance Process policy. Rowen explained that this is one of four governance quadrants the Board will develop. Several changes were recommended by the Board regarding this policy, but no official action was taken on this quadrant. Rowen explained that the plan is for the Board to complete and adopt the four governance quadrants at its June meeting.

10. Public comments

Josh Ney, Vice Chair of the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council (PDAAC), commented that the PDAAC at an upcoming meeting will discuss ways in which the group can engage with the PDAB as it looks at selecting drugs for affordability reviews. Rainer Simmons, representing the Community Access National Network (CANN) encouraged the Board to continue being cognizant of potential unintended consequences impacting patient access to prescription medications as it does its work.

Adjournment

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.