

Meeting Minutes: Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council

Date: 8/20/2025

Minutes prepared by: Joe Sellwood

Location: Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul MN 55101

Chair Jessica Intermill called the meeting to order at 1:07PM. Recording was initiated.

Attendance

Members present:

Jessica Intermill (in-person)
Joe Sellwood (in-person)
Joel Farley (in-person)
Galen Benshoof (in-person)
Josh Ney (in-person)
Robert Miller (in-person)
Buck Humphrey (online)
Hannah Thompson (online)
Heather Anderson (online)
Dirk Killelea (online)
Amy McNally (online)
Eric Tichy (online)
Kevin Brown (online)
Gary Wertish (online)

Members not present:

Stefan Gildemeister
Randall Hannah
Rae Blaylark

A quorum is present.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Intermill moved adoption of the August 20, 2025 PDAAC Special Meeting Agenda.
Seconded by Vice Chair Ney.

Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Chair Intermill moved approval of June 12, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by member Miller.

Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Report from PDAB Executive Director, Vernon Rowen

- PDAB adopted amended bylaws, conflict of interest statement, proprietary statement
- PDAB in the process of crafting mission, vision, values statement
- Working on establishing clarity for the process of evaluating drugs, setting upper payment limits
- PDAB determining the required data system, required data, data analysis
- PDAB crafting administrative position to assist with coordination, meetings/events, outreach
- The PDAB would like to do a couple of listening sessions (metro/outstate)
- The PDAB would like some PDAAC members to provide 10-15 minute presentations to the PDAB, to provide more background information on their perspective/stakeholder group
- Chair Intermill will share Executive Director Rowen's email with the group
 - o PDAAC members can contact Executive Director Rowen to present to the PDAB
- Benshoof: Are we looking at other states on how they're doing things?
 - o Rowen: We're following Maryland and Colorado, but we're guided by our statute. We have two tasks in looking at affordability, individuals, and the state as a whole. If we set an upper payment limit, that's going to apply to paying entities. We're going to try and learn where we can from the other PDABs.

Report from Interim Chair, Jessica Intermill

- Chair Intermill reviews open position for pharmacologist, two applicants so far
- The PDAAC now has a unique website within the Department of Commerce
- The PDAAC does not have legal assistance like the PDAB, Chair Intermill shares legislation draft
- Sellwood moves that the PDAAC directs the Interim Chair and Vice Chair to explore a proposed amendment to achieve technical assistance and legal services for the PDAAC.
 - o Miller seconds.

YES Jessica Intermill (in-person)

YES Joe Sellwood (in-person)

YES Joel Farley (in-person)

YES Galen Benshoof (in-person)

YES Josh Ney (in-person)

YES Robert Miller (in-person)

YES Buck Humphrey (online)

YES Hannah Thompson (online)

YES Heather Anderson (online)

YES Dirk Killelea (online)

YES Amy McNally (online)

YES Eric Tichy (online)

YES Kevin Brown (online)

YES Gary Wertish (online)

- The motion passes

- The PDAAC needs a “responsible authority” and Chair Intermill asks for a volunteer.
 - o No PDAAC member volunteers
 - o Further discussion about the necessity of this position, the risk to the individual and the PDAAC, and the availability of various alternatives
- Chair Intermill moves that the PDAAC act under MN Rules Ch. 1205.0200 to appoint Eamonn Schmitz as the Data Practices Act Responsible Authority for the PDAAC, unless the Governor’s Office appoints a different state employee within 14 days.
 - o Miller seconds.

YES Jessica Intermill (in-person)

YES Joe Sellwood (in-person)

YES Joel Farley (in-person)

ABSTAIN Galen Benshoof (in-person)

NO Josh Ney (in-person)

YES Robert Miller (in-person)

YES Buck Humphrey (online)

YES Hannah Thompson (online)

YES Heather Anderson (online)

YES Dirk Killelea (online)

YES Amy McNally (online)

YES Kevin Brown (online)

YES Gary Wertish (online)

- The Motion passes

Report from the PDAB/PDAAC Interaction Task Force, Dr. Joel Farley

Summary of PDAAC Communication to PDAB and Survey Revisions

- a. Communicate the process to PDAB
 - b. Outline the survey process to capture how the survey was derived
 - c. Capture the process for collecting and incorporating feedback to the survey design
1. Final reminder to send responses – We have 12 responses from committee members to the survey. It is not too late to send responses.
 2. Analysis of Results – This analysis will focus on three separate considerations:
 - a. The first is common areas of agreement on issues of affordability, cost, value, and concerns.
 - b. The second is areas of potential disagreement.
 - c. The third is areas of specific interest to unique stakeholder groups.
 3. Once the thematic analysis is completed, Dr. Farley will generate a summary report for review by the PDAAC. The PDAAC will have time to discuss the findings and whether or not they disagree.
 - a. The purpose of this will not be to debate where PDAAC member stands, but instead the process implemented, the findings stemming from the actual responses, etc.
 4. Once revisions to the report are made, Dr. Farley will release both the report as well as the raw results of the survey to the PDAB. This report will then be made publicly available.

5. A process to capture agreement, disagreement, and any additional public comments will be adopted so that PDAAC members who may dissent or want to write a letter of endorsement for the findings will have an opportunity to do so.
- Vice Chair Ney: will there be a way of including the supplemental material from the stakeholder groups?
 - o Dr. Farley: that's complicated with the structure of the survey, but once the report is made public, there could be public comment on the report. It's important that we share the responses with the PDAB as well.
 - Timeline for this process, Dr. Farley would like to have a draft report in the next month, the PDAAC would discuss the report at the next meeting

Conflicts of Interest Requirements

- Chair Intermill notes the conflicts of interest language, begin the discussion of the statutory requirements
- Vice Chair Ney moves that the PDAAC convene a temporary working group to further develop conflicts of interest policy.
 - o Chair Intermill seconds.

YES Jessica Intermill (in-person)

YES Joe Sellwood (in-person)

YES Joel Farley (in-person)

YES Galen Benshoof (in-person)

YES Josh Ney (in-person)

YES Robert Miller (in-person)

YES Buck Humphrey (online)

YES Hannah Thompson (online)

YES Heather Anderson (online)

YES Dirk Killelea (online)

YES Amy McNally (online)

YES Kevin Brown (online)

YES Gary Wertish (online)

- The motion prevails.

Temporary Working Group

- Amy McNally
- Josh Ney
- Hannah Thompson
- Jessica Intermill

Open Discussion

- None.

Public Comment

- None.

Meeting Adjournment

- Chair Intermill adjourned the meeting at 2:47PM.