



Meeting Minutes: Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Date: 05/30/2024
Minutes prepared by: Andrew Etteldorf
Location: Summit Conference Room, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East,
St Paul, MN, 55101

Note: the May 30 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. Matt Toburen -- online
6. Stephen Schondelmeyer
7. Matthew Anderson
8. Michael Howard
9. Alice Mann -- online

Attorney General's Office, Commerce, and Minnesota Department of Health staff present:

1. James Canaday (AGO)
2. Julia Dreier (COMM)
3. Lisa Creger (COMM)
4. Brett Benson (COMM) -- online
5. Andrew Etteldorf (COMM)
6. Stefan Gildemeister (MDH)
7. Annelisa Steeber (MDH)

Agenda Items

The Minnesota Prescription Drug Affordability Board (Board) convened Thursday, May 30, 2024.

Chair Lourey called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM and announced that a quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes from Past Meetings

The Board moved to approve minutes for the April 30 meeting. All members voted in favor. The Board then moved to approve minutes for the May 22 special meeting. All members voted in favor. The approved minutes are available on the PDAB webpage.

2. Update on Executive Director Hiring Process

The Board subcommittee on staff hiring provided an update on its conversations with Management Analysis and Development (MAD). The subcommittee announced that it will meet with MAD on Friday, May 31, 2024.

Commerce noted that it submitted a request to the Commerce Human Resources department to create the PDAB Executive Director position.

Canaday clarified that the subcommittee on staff hirings may screen Executive Director candidates for interviews, but the subsequent interviews with the Board are required to be open to the public in compliance with the open meeting law.

3. Discuss Proposed Board Bylaws

Canaday presented an updated version of the proposed PDAB bylaws. This updated version is available on the PDAB webpage. Updates to this document from the previous version include placeholders referring to what will be separate standalone policies related to proprietary information and conflicts of interest, the removal of a placeholder for standing committees in addition to the executive subcommittee, and the addition of “if required” to language regarding public notice of meetings.

The Board moved to approve and adopt this version of the PDAB bylaws. All members voted in favor.

Canaday will prepare first drafts of policies for proprietary information and conflicts of interest. Canaday also offered to share background information related to these policies with the Board.

4. Discuss Board Mission

The Board members discussed their understanding of the Board’s mission with respect to affordability. Representative Michael Howard and Senator Alice Mann, non-voting members of the PDAB, spoke about the impact of high drug costs on Minnesotans.

5. MDH Presentation on Data Sources

MDH presented on data and practices related to its Prescription Drug Price Transparency work. The slides for this presentation are available on the PDAB webpage. MDH reiterated its responsibility to provide

data and technical assistance to the Board and to consult with the Board on the identification of drugs that present a significant affordability challenge.

6. Advisory Council Member Introductions

The Board invited members of the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council (Advisory Council) to share their affiliation and mission for their work on the Advisory Council. Fourteen of eighteen Advisory Council members attended the meeting.

Canaday clarified that while he is legal counsel to the Board, he does not represent the Advisory Council. The Board added that the Advisory Council is also subject to open meeting law. Advisory Council members will discuss how they plan to organize.

7. Open Discussion and Public Comments

The Board received and responded to public comments as follows:

- One attendee requested that the slides from MDH's presentation be published. These slides are available on the PDAB webpage.
- The Minnesota Nursing Association gave testimony about the burden of high drug costs for patients.
- One member of the Advisory Council asked if Advisory Council members can be on Board subcommittees. Canaday responded that he will review the statutes and confirm.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota expressed that it looks forward to working with the PDAB.
- One attendee asked about a list serve for meeting notices.

8. Future Meetings

The Board moved to schedule two future meetings for Tuesday, July 23, 2024 from 9 AM – 12 PM and Thursday, September 12, 2024 from 9 AM – 12 PM. All members voted in favor.

Adjournment

The Board moved to close the meeting. Six members voted in favor; Barnes had left the call. The meeting closed at 11:57 AM.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: **Thursday, June 20, 2024**

Time: **9 AM to 12 PM**

Location: Summit Conference Room, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, St Paul, MN, 55101