

**MARYLAND PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, November 4, 2024
Minutes**

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order:

Co-Chair Lorriane Diana called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

(Roll Call) Stakeholder Council Members Present:

Angela Bryant, Steven Chen, Lorraine Diana, John Elliot, Jim Gutman, Deron Johnson, NaShona Kess, Greta Kessler, Barry Lipsy, Marc Nicole, Shaun O'Brien, Mandi Poplawski, Glenn Schneider, Kelly Schulz, Sean Tunis, Joseph Winn

Agenda Item 2

August 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Diana asked for a motion to approve the August 26, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. Jim Gutman made the motion, which NaShona Kess seconded. The PDASC approved the minutes unanimously.

Action: Minutes APPROVED

Agenda Item 3

Opportunity for Public Comment

The PDASC received one written comment which was shared with the PDASC and posted to the website. No requests for oral public comment were received.

Agenda Item 4

Upper Payment Limit and Policy Review Process- Update and Presentation

Executive Director Andrew York gave an update on the Upper Payment Limit Action Plan.

Dr. York mentioned that the PDAB presented the UPL Action Plan (approved by the Board on 9/10/2024) to the Legislative Policy Committee on October 22, 2024. The Legislative Policy committee approved the UPL Action with a 15-5 vote at the October 22nd hearing.

Dr. York then proceeded to give a presentation that combined Agenda Item 4 and Agenda Item 5- Upper Payment Limit and Policy Review Process and Draft Regulations. This presentation is posted on the Stakeholder Council page of the website. Stakeholder Council discussion proceeded on the regulations after the presentation concluded. Written comments on the proposed draft regulations are due to the PDAB on November 8, 2024.

Agenda Item 5

Draft Regulations

a. Amendment to COMAR 14.01.01.01, and New Regulation 14.01.01.06

b. New Chapter - COMAR 14.01.05 (Policy Review, Final Action, Upper Payment Limits)

The presentation given by Dr. York covered the following draft regulations:

- Amendments to COMAR 14.01.01.01 (Definitions)
- New Regulation 14.01.01.06 (Hearing Procedures)
- New Chapter - COMAR 14.01.05 (Policy Review, Final Action, Upper Payment Limits)

The draft regulations are posted on the stakeholder council page of the website.

The PDASC asked clarifying questions and provided feedback around the regulations. The main discussion themes included definition suggestions and clarifications, hearing logistics and procedures, short and long term timelines for UPLs, consumer expectations, monitoring and enforcement, consistency, and UPL suspension clarification.

Agenda Item 6

Cost Review Study Process Update

Dr. York provided a verbal update on the Cost Review Study Process.

- At the September 10, 2024 Board meeting, the Board approved proposed regulations to update the Cost Review Study Process to account for the new policy review process. These regulations were published in the November 1, 2024 register and comments on these proposed regulations are due on December 2, 2024. These regulations were also submitted as Emergency regulations but there is no update as of now whether or not they will be approved as such.
- The PDAB is asking for additional public comments for prescription drug products which have gone through the RFI process (i.e., Jardiance, Farxiga, Ozempic, Trulicity) until Friday, November 8, 2024. The PDAB hopes to obtain more comments around patient and clinician experiences.

Agenda Item 7

Administrative Update

Christina Shaklee provided an administrative update on the following:

- The next Board meeting will take place on November 25, 2024 at 2:00PM. This meeting will be in person at the Miller Senate Building. Information will be posted on the PDAB website.

- Ms. Shaklee introduced the newest PDASC member, NaShona Kess, Esq. Ms. Kess was appointed by Speaker Jones to represent the Statewide Organization for Diverse Communities. Ms. Kess is the Executive Director of the Maryland NAACP.
- Ms. Shakee has been working closely with all the appointing offices on appointments that are vacant or that have come up to the end of the term.
- The PDAB website has information pertaining to the comment opportunities mentioned.

Agenda Item 8

Co-Chair's Update

- Co-Chair Diana stated that the next PDASC meeting will take place on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 2:00PM. This meeting will be virtual.

Agenda Item 9

Adjournment

Co-Chair Diana thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. NaShona Kess made the motion which was seconded by Shaun O'Brien.

Adjourned at 3:43 PM.