

# **PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, February 23, 2026**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Minutes**

## **AGENDA ITEM 1**

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

Chair Van Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Board Members present:** Van Mitchell, Gerard Anderson, Ph.D., Stephen Rockower, M.D., Georges C. Benjamin, MD, MACP, Julia F. Slejko, PhD.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2**

### **Introduction of New Board Member**

Chair Van Mitchell introduced the PDAB's newest Board member, Julia F. Slejko, PhD. Dr. Slejko gave a brief introduction. Executive Director Andrew York also provided an update that the PDAB is now fully staffed with the hiring of Spencer Dixon.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **a. November 17, 2025 Minutes**

Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to approve the November 17, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Dr. Anderson made the motion, which Dr. Rockower seconded. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**Action: Motion Passed; Minutes APPROVED.**

#### **b. December 8, 2025 Minutes**

Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to approve the December 8, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Dr. Rockower made the motion, which Dr. Anderson seconded. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**Action: Motion Passed; Minutes APPROVED.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 4**

## **Opportunity for Public Comment**

Fifteen entities submitted written comments that have been provided to the Board and posted to the website. These included comments submitted for the February 23, 2026 Board meeting, the Framework comments on Ozempic and Trulicity that were due on February 17, 2026 and comments that were submitted for the January 26, 2026 canceled PDAB meeting.

Six people signed up for oral public comment:

1. Derek Flowers; Value of Care Coalition, Agenda Item 5
2. Jessie Haviland; Maryland Healthcare For All; Agenda Item 5
3. George Huntley; Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition; Agenda Item 5
4. Nellie Washington; Maryland Public Health Association; Agenda Item 5
5. Sara Westrick; AARP; Agenda Item 5
6. Rev. Dr. Stacey Wilson; Executive Minister of Beloved Community; Agenda Item 5

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **Policy Review Process**

#### **a. Staff Preliminary Policy Recommendations (COMAR 14.01.05.05)**

Dr. York provided an update on the Cost Review Study Process for Ozempic and Trulicity including the preliminary determinations made at the November 17, 2025 meeting. Dr. York explained the policy review process and summarized the feedback provided at the Informational Hearings on December 16, 2025. Dr. York also summarized the Stakeholder Council feedback from the December 15, 2025 meeting.

Dr. York then provided a summary of preliminary policy recommendations for Ozempic and Trulicity for further development, analysis and consideration. When recommending policy options (both upper payment limit (UPL) and non-UPL), under COMAR 14.01.05.05B and C, Board staff may analyze the following: drivers of the affordability challenge; how the policy addresses a driver; strengths and weaknesses of the policy; possible implementation of the policy through legislation, regulation, or enforcement; and potential impacts of the policy.

Dr. York addressed the following potential non-UPL policies: Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) Inflation Penalty, Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) compensation, bulk purchasing/subscription model, State generic manufacturing, and State Participation in Centers for Medicaid and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) models, Plan design and PBM reform study and recommendations, and glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) Study and Recommendations. The

Board had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. The Board recommended not moving forward with State generic manufacturing and to prioritize policies that provide cost savings for patients.

UPL Policy options including strengths and weaknesses were also discussed around Ozempic and Trulicity. Staff then asked for board direction to pursue the development of an upper payment limit as a policy option and provide recommendations to the board concerning the frameworks and contextual information that may be used for setting a UPL. The Board recommended moving forward.

The presentation is posted on the Board page of the website.

**b. Contingent on Board direction above (Agenda Item IV.a.), Staff Possible UPL frameworks and contextual information recommendations**

**i. Ozempic**

Dr. York presented a powerpoint presentation concerning the criteria for setting UPL and guiding principles, policy review process for establishing a UPL, and potential frameworks. The presentation and framework documents are posted on the Board page of the website.

Dr. York presented an overview of the potential frameworks for setting a UPL for Ozempic. Dr. York also presented frameworks recommended by staff including domestic reference pricing under COMAR 14.01.05.06B(5) - Medicare Maximum Fair Price (MFP) and staff-recommended contextual information under COMAR 14.01.05.06C. Dr. York also provided savings estimates.

The Board then discussed the UPL frameworks and the staff-recommended framework.

Dr. York recommended that the Board use the national domestic reference pricing-Medicare Maximum Fair Price framework and the contextual information set forth in COMAR 14.01.05.06C(1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (8). Staff requests that the Board recommend to adopt the staff recommendations. Dr. Anderson made the motion with Chair Mitchell seconded. The Board approved the recommendation unanimously.

**Action: Motion passed; Staff to move forward with the staff-recommended framework and contextual information for Ozempic.**

## ii. Trulicity

Dr. York provided a short overview of the framework and contextual information for Trulicity. The Trulicity framework document was posted for public comment. The presentation and framework documents are posted on the Board page of the website. The Board had the opportunity to discuss the elements in the presentation.

Staff recommended that the Board use National Domestic Reference Pricing - (COMAR 14.01.05.06B(2)) and Therapeutic Class reference framework and the contextual information set forth in COMAR 14.01.05.06C(1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (8) for Trulicity. Staff requests that the Board recommend to adopt the staff recommendations. Dr. Anderson made the motion which Dr. Benjamin seconded. The Board approved the recommendation unanimously.

**Action: Motion passed; Staff to move forward with the staff-recommended framework and contextual information for Trulicity.**

### AGENDA ITEM 6

#### Administrative Update

- a. Ms. Shaklee provided a short legislative update. The PDAB is actively tracking the 2026 legislative session and is preparing for the budget hearings in early March.
- b. Dr. York provided a short update on the Cost Review Study Process and Policy Review Process including revisiting the process as a whole and trying to streamline it.
- c. Staff Updates - The PDAB is now fully staffed.

### AGENDA ITEM 7

#### Chair's Update

- a. A proclamation for Dr. Eberechukwu Onukwugha is forthcoming.
- b. The next PDAB meeting is on March 23, 2026 and will be virtual.

### AGENDA ITEM 8

#### Adjournment

Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Benjamin made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dr. Anderson.

**Adjourned** at 10:54 a.m.