

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, October 19, 2020
Minutes

Chairman Van Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Board Members present: Joseph Levy, PhD, Eberechukwu Onukwugha, MS, PhD, Gerard Anderson, PhD, and George Malouf, MD.

AGENDA ITEM 1.

Approval of minutes

Chairman Mitchell moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Dr. Anderson made motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Dr. Malouf and unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM 2.

Carrier Presentation on Rx Pricing and Utilization

Following approval of the September minutes, Chairman Mitchell asked Kris Vallecillo to introduce the first of two panels of presenters. Mr. Vallecillo first introduced the CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield panel, comprised of Arif Khan, Mandi Poplawski, and Deborah Rivkin.

The panel walked the Board through their presentation, identifying three major categories that fuels affordability challenges for drug costs: expensive novel therapies, drugs with high utilization rates, and drugs that experience large price inflation. The panel also offered their thoughts on potential strategies to address rising costs, such as considering efficacy, cost efficiency, and other criteria.

Following CareFirst's presentation, Mr. Vallecillo introduced the next panel. Monet Stanford, Jason Brandwene, and Allison Taylor presented on behalf of Kaiser Permanente. After providing a review of the general operation and care delivery model of Kaiser, the panel explained how this system helps exert downward pressure on rising prescription costs. The panel also reviewed the trends it has identified in drug utilization, identified major issues and actors causing expensive costs, and offered suggestions to the Board as to how it can address rising prescription drug costs.

Mr. Vallecillo will follow up with the presenters to ask additional questions identified by the Board members.

AGENDA ITEM 3.

Chairman's Update

Chairman Mitchell provided a brief update regarding the Executive Director position, acquiring office space, and the recently submitted budget. He also provided a reminder about upcoming PDAB meetings and virtual town halls that will feature Board members.

No Action Needed

AGENDA ITEM 4.

Administrative Update

Mr. Vallecillo provided an update regarding the Executive Director position. He informed the Board that the posting for the Executive Director position was live, and would remain open until October 28.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that there was no change in the budget status, and that the PDAB had submitted its budget request for FY 2022. With regard to securing office space, Mr. Johnson reported that the RFP closed the week prior, and we are waiting for an update from DGS about the offers that were put forth.

No Action Needed

Adjourned at 3:49 p.m.