

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, November 16, 2020
Minutes

Chairman Van Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

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

*Dr. Anderson indicated via email message during the meeting that he was on the call, but he was unable to speak due to technical issues.

AGENDA ITEM 1.

Approval of minutes

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

AGENDA ITEM 2.

Presentation by Harford County Executive Barry Glassman on Rx Costs and Utilization

Following approval of the November minutes, Chairman Mitchell introduced Harford County Executive Barry Glassman to discuss the impact of rising drug costs on county and local governments' budgets.

Mr. Glassman began his presentation by noting annual increases in prescription drug costs, especially specialty drugs, outpace every other fixed cost on Harford County's budget. Mr. Glassman explained that only twenty percent of employees are responsible for eighty percent of health care costs, due in large part to inflation of specialty drugs. Mr. Glassman continued to note the distorted effect that specialty drugs have on his county's finances, providing that eighty county employees require specialty drugs, and the average cost is approximately \$50,000 per year per person. In total, Harford County spends \$13 million on prescription drugs, spending approximately \$4 million in specialty drugs alone.

Mr. Glassman also noted that Harford County has been forced to take certain actions to combat these rising costs, including transitioning from copays to coinsurance, exploring the use of an exclusive pharmacy network, actively surveilling market rates to try to take advantage of rebates, and promoting generic drug products.

No Action Needed

AGENDA ITEM 3.

Chairman's Update

Chairman Mitchell announced that the Board was invited to present before the Insurance and Pharmaceuticals Subcommittee later in December. Chairman Mitchell also provided an update regarding the Executive Director, the Board's progress on securing office space, as well as a legislative update

No Action Needed

AGENDA ITEM 4.

Administrative Update

Mr. Vallecillo provided a brief update on the work of the Board's subcommittee focused on data collection, as well as a brief overview of the past Session's legislation affecting the Board's actions.

Chairman Mitchell also highlighted two upcoming forums hosted by MCHI, noting that registration information would be posted on the PDAB website.

No Action Needed

Adjourned at 3:49 p.m.