

**MARYLAND PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
Monday, December 18, 2023  
Minutes**

**Agenda Item 1**

**Call to Order:**

Co-Chair Lorriane Diana called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

**(Roll Call) Stakeholder Council Members present:** Angela Bryant, Steven Chen, Lorraine Diana, John Elliott, Sherita Hill-Golden, Jim Gutman, Deron Johnson, Greta Kessler, Barry Lipsy, Eric Morse, Marc Nicole, Shaun O'Brien, Hayley Park, Mandi Poplawski, Kimberly Robinson, Glenn Schneider, Kelly Schulz, Sean Tunis, Joseph Winn

**Agenda Item 2**

**October 23rd Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chair Diana asked for a motion to approve the October 23, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Greta Kessler made the motion, which Jim Gutman seconded, and the Stakeholder Council approved the minutes.

**Action: Minutes APPROVED**

**Agenda Item 3**

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

- Prior to the meeting, one written comment was received, provided to all PDASC members and posted to the Stakeholder Council page on the Board's website.
- Having registered to provide oral comment in advance of the meeting, Rosalyn Berkowitz, BSN, RN, Vice Chair, Baltimore County Commission for Women, addressed the Stakeholder Council on the Supply Chain Report and Cost Review Process, specifically around drug affordability (agenda items 5 and 6).

**Agenda Item 4**

**Maryland HealthCare for All Coalition**

- Co-Chair Nicole introduced the Maryland HealthCare for all Coalition to give an update on their most recent statewide listening sessions. The Maryland HealthCare for All Coalition had 10 minutes to present.
- Vincent DeMarco, President of the HealthCare for All Coalition briefed the PDASC on the series of listening sessions they hosted across the State about the work the PDAB is doing. The HealthCare for All Coalition shared poll data around prescription drugs. The listening sessions gave an overview of the PDAB work and citizens shared their stories

around prescription drug affordability. The sessions were hosted by the local leader of those counties, who are supportive of the PDAB. Mr. DeMarco's presentation is posted on the Stakeholder Council page on the website.

- Mr. DeMarco introduced several persons who provided the following experiences and insights:
  - Jonathan McKinney (NAACP) prioritizes support for the PDAB and the expansion of its authorities. He stated that medicine affordability issues may be pronounced among minority communities and contribute to racial disparities and requests PDAB centers healthcare equity in decision-making.
  - Apostle Larry Lee Thomas has been personally affected by medication expenses and requests that the Board keep advocacy leaders input in mind throughout work.
- A YouTube video was shared with PDASC showing local leaders supporting the PDAB and its important work. Link to this video can be found here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNa2QnBO94k&feature=youtu.be>

### **Agenda Item 5**

#### **Supply Chain Report**

- Executive Director York gave an overview of the supply chain report. The purpose of the report is to introduce the relevant participants in the supply chain, overview of key market issues, and potential policy options the Board can consider moving forward. Dr. York shared the major findings of the report. Dr. York stated that staff plans to finalize the report in advance of the January 29, 2024 Board Meeting. Dr. York asked for stakeholder feedback by January 5, 2024. Dr. York addressed questions from the PDASC regarding the Supply Chain Report.
- A draft of the "Supply Chain Report" is posted on the Reports page and the Stakeholder Council page on the PDAB website.

### **Agenda Item 6**

#### **Cost Review Process Update**

- Dr. York gave an overview of the Cost Review Study Process. The Cost Review Study Process (COMAR 14.01.04) and General Provisions (COMAR 14.01.01) went into effect December 25, 2023. Dr. York outlined the upcoming steps and timeline for the Cost Review Study Process focusing on the identification and selection of drugs for cost review. Dr. York emphasized opportunities for public comment and engagement during the cost review study process.
- Dr. York entertained comments and questions from the PDASC around the cost review study process.
- The presentation is available on the Stakeholder Council page on the PDAB website.

### **Agenda Item 7**

#### **Upper Payment Limit Action Plan Update**

- Dr. York gave a brief update on the Upper Payment Limit Action. PDAB staff plan to publish a draft of the Upper Payment Limit Action Plan soon. Opportunities for public comment and feedback on the Upper Payment Limit Action Plan will be provided. PDAB staff is currently working through certain operational issues.
- The Supply Chain Report contains a section on Upper Payment Limits.

### **Agenda Item 8**

#### **Administrative Update**

- Christina Shaklee provided an administrative update. Ms. Shaklee stated that she continues to work with the appointing offices to fill the two vacant PDASC positions.
- The Maryland Legislative session begins in January 2024. PDAB staff will continue to track legislative bills that affect the PDAB and prescription drug affordability. Staff cannot have discussions around bills that are not published on the Maryland General Assembly website.

### **Agenda Item 9**

#### **Co-Chair's Update**

- Co-Chair Diana reiterated that 2024 will be an exciting year and the PDASC is an integral part of the cost review study process.
- The next PDASC meeting will be on February 26, 2024 at 2:00 PM.
- The PDASC will continue to meet virtually in 2024.
- Co-Chair Diana permitted a question from Deron Johnson with respect to the Board meetings: Will the Board meetings in 2024 have a virtual aspect when held in person? Dr. York responded that the Board will be utilizing meeting rooms that have synchronous capabilities.
- Kelly Shulz commented that it would be helpful to be able to review the Board meetings.

### **Agenda Item 10**

#### **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Nicole thanked everyone for their attendance and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelly Schulz made the motion which was seconded by Sherita Hill-Golden.

**Adjourned 3:17 PM.**