



# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
1:00pm-3:00pm

# AGENDA

- 1:00-1:15 – Office Operational Updates
- 1:15-2:00 – Council Business
- 2:00-2:45 – Fall Special Meetings Planning
- 2:45-3:00 – Future Meeting Agendas & Wrap Up





# OFFICE OPERATIONS UPDATES

# UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- **Budget**
  - OAHC initiative was included in the change package passed by the legislature
    - “All other” funding increase of \$146,003 most of which is budgeted for analytics contracts, fellowship compensation, and fees necessary to access legal counsel through the Office of the Attorney General.
    - Changes staffing authorization from an Office Specialist II position to a Planner II position.
- **Hiring**
  - Still awaiting FJA approval for Public Service Coordinator II to serve in a senior analyst role
  - Planning to post fall fellowship opportunities in early September, pending confirmation of temporary staffing delivery order.
- **Website**
  - Currently under development, should be live in September
  - URL will be [Maine.gov/OAHC](https://Maine.gov/OAHC)

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Updates since last Advisory Council meeting:

- LD 1792 – Rural health task force – carried over from the special appropriations table.
- LD 1795 – Facility fee task force – enacted.
- LD 329 – Blue Ribbon Commission on Guaranteed Health Care – died on the special study table.

Outcomes previously discussed:

- LD 914 – Added a reference to considering the cost of new and emerging technologies in the office’s work. *(passed to be enacted)*
- LD 1856 – A resolution which clarifies the office’s policy option study requirement. It would prioritize a study of public options models for delivery in January of 2024, and provide flexibility on the timeline of delivery of a report on other policy models, which would be required by January 2025. *(passed - final)*





# COUNCIL BUSINESS

# COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Business items for discussion and vote:
  - Election of Chair & Vice Chair
  - Remote Meeting Policy
- Business items for discussion and future action:
  - Conflict of interest form
    - Are members clear on recusal requirements, or is any clarification needed?
  - Council Charter





# FALL SPECIAL MEETINGS PLANNING



# SEPTEMBER PUBLIC HEARING

- From statute: “Beginning in 2023, the office shall convene an annual public hearing no later than October 1st on cost trends and barriers to health care affordability. The hearing must provide an opportunity for public comment on health care cost trends and, beginning in 2023, on barriers to health care affordability. The executive director shall preside over the hearing.”
- Hearing to be scheduled for Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.
- OAHC will present on health spending, with a focus on MHDO baseline report and recent survey data on barriers to care faced by Maine consumers. Following the presentation, the public will be invited to speak.
  - The public will be invited to testify in person and/or to submit written testimony. (There will not be an option for live remote testimony).
  - The hearing will be available to view remotely, and recorded.
  - A time limit for comments will be established based on the number of individuals who sign up to testify.
  - Commenters will be strongly encouraged to utilize the structured format for their comments, but are not required to.
- Questions for the group:
  - Recommendations regarding the structure of the meeting?
  - Feedback on proposed comment solicitation format?

# NOVEMBER CONVENING

- Targeting a full-day in-person gathering in Portland the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Proposed invited participants: members of the Council, members of the HCIFS and HHS committees of the legislature, and select representatives of the executive branch (Governor's Office, Bureau of Insurance, State Employee Health Plan, and Department of Health and Human Services).
- Goal: provide a forum for designated stakeholders of OAHC to learn about relevant work on health care affordability around the country, with a specific focus on hearing from other states.
  - Looking to review a variety of “big ideas” from around the country. Will not be possible to provide a comprehensive review of all policy ideas, but looking to present a cross-section of significant activities.
  - Inclusion of policies from other states on the agenda is not an endorsement. This is an opportunity to hear about why states pursued the strategies they did, and generate food for thought.
  - Attendees will be asked to review provided reading materials before the event, so that panelists do not need to spend time summarizing initiatives.



# DRAFT CONVENING AGENDA

Welcome, goals for the day	
Panel: Reviewing the data – what we know about the drivers of health spending	- Guest economists presenting on Maine and national data that sheds light on consumer cost burden, overall health spending, and most significant drivers of consumer health care costs.
Panel: Using health insurance and Marketplace strategies to promote affordability	- Potential topics: state-funded subsidies, public option with premium reduction targets, active purchaser strategies. Possible state invitees: New Mexico, Colorado, California.
Panel: Addressing the role of provider prices in consumer affordability	- Potential topics: cost growth targets, transparency board, hospital price benchmarking. Possible state invitees: Massachusetts, Washington, Connecticut.
Panel: The wide view: reforming the delivery system to promote efficiency and equity	- Potential topics: multi-payer total cost of care models, primary care transformation, affordability standards. Possible state invitees: Maryland, Rhode Island, Vermont.
Closing, takeaways, next steps	



# **FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS**



# FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 1:00-3:00:
  - Debrief from public hearing and discussion of public comment
  - Update on research questions and planned analyses
- December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 1:00-3:00:
  - Debrief from November convening
  - Review and discuss legislative report outlines/drafts
- For discussion: are there additional presentations or focused discussion topics the Council would like to request?