



Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

May 21, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

House Subcommittee Room C – General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate Rodney Willett
Delegate M. Keith Hodges
Delegate Cliff Hayes
Delegate Patrick Hope
Delegate Cia Price
Delegate Atoosa Reaser
Delegate Mark Sickles
Delegate Howard Wachsmann

Senator Barbara Favola (virtual)
Senator Ghazala Hashmi
Senator Christopher Head (virtual)
Senator Mamie Locke
Senator L. Louise Lucas (virtual)
Senator Todd Pillion (virtual)
Senator Stella Pekarsky
Senator David Suetterlein

Members Absent

Delegate Robert Orrock
Delegate Baxter Ennis

Staff Present

Sarah Stanton
Jen Piver - Renna
Emily Atkinson
Estella Obi-Tabot
Agnes Dymora

Call to order and welcoming comments – Delegate Willett

Roll Call - Agnes Dymora

Chairman Willett briefly spoke about and led a moment of silence to honor the late Rep. Gerry Connolly.

Executive Director Sarah Stanton provided an overview of the agenda and introduced the first guest presenter, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner Nelson Smith.

Commissioner Smith provided an update on the plan for closing the Hiram Davis Medical Center. He began by stating that the workgroup is still currently working on recommendations. He provided an overview of current patients and their anticipated new locations. Mr. Smith provided details of the planning team and the final timeline of the closure. Finally, he answered members' questions.

Sarah Stanton gave a quick overview of the outcome of JCHC bills and budget amendments that were introduced during the 2025 Session. She also described two bills enacted by the General Assembly:

- HB 2372 (Sickles), transferring from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to the JCHC the duty to assess the social and economic costs and benefits of proposed mandated health insurance benefits upon request of the Health Insurance Reform Commission, and
- SB 1120 (Lucas) and HB 2617 (Mundon King), creating the Commission on Women's Health.

The Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations Senior Legislative Fiscal Analyst Mike Tweedy briefed members on the budget actions for Health and Human Resources. He discussed how the HHR budget funding is broken down and spoke about the increase in the funding. Mr. Tweedy briefed members on the initiatives being funded in the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Health, and several other human services agencies. He lastly talked about the Commonwealth Health Reinsurance Program. He answered several questions from the members.

Deputy Director Jen Piver-Renna provided a background briefing on the JCHC's study of *Policy Solutions to the Commonwealth's Fentanyl Crisis*. She discussed the study mandate and study questions to be answered in the report that will be presented in the fall. Jen presented statistics on fentanyl overdoses and described some causes for rise in fentanyl use and strategies to reduce illegal use of this drug. She concluded by listing next steps and questions to be addressed by future policy options. Lastly, Jen answered members' questions.

Sarah Stanton provided a summary of the JCHC Executive Subcommittee's recommendations for changes to the 2025 work plan. She informed the members that the Executive Subcommittee recommended including on the 2025 workplan two additional, targeted studies of Implementation of a Medicaid ILOS Food and Nutrition Benefit for Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Individuals Living with Diabetes, and Strategies for Legislative Oversight of Medicaid Program Spending. After some questions and discussion, all present JCHC members voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations.

Sarah concluded the meeting by providing members with the 2025 meeting dates and a brief overview of the JCHC electronic meetings policy. Members voted to readopt the policy.

Meeting adjourned.

Members who participated virtually did so due to the following reasons: Senator Favola due to medical condition; Senator Head due to travel; Senator Lucas due to a schedule conflict; and Senator Pillion due to a schedule conflict.