



Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

September 17, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

House Subcommittee Room C – General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate Rodney Willett, Chair
Delegate M. Keith Hodges
Delegate Robert Orrock
Delegate Cia Price
Delegate Mark Sickles
Delegate Howard Wachsmann

Senator Ghazala Hashmi, Vice Chair
Senator Barbara Favola (virtual)
Senator Mamie Locke (virtual)
Senator Stella Pekarsky
Senator Todd Pillion (virtual)
Senator David Suetterlein (virtual)

Members Absent

Delegate Baxter Ennis
Delegate Cliff Hayes
Delegate Patrick Hope
Delegate Atoosa Reaser
Senator Christopher Head
Senator L. Louise Lucas

Staff Present

Sarah Stanton
Jen Piver-Renna
Emily Atkinson
Khadeejat Lawal
Agnes Dymora
Mayesha Alam

Call to order and welcoming comments – Chairman Willett

Roll Call - Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Sarah Stanton provided an overview of the agenda.

Khadeejat Lawal, Assistant Health Policy Analyst, presented the 2025 Health Metrics Annual report. She described recent trends in life expectancy, chronic health conditions, and factors affecting health outcomes of Virginians. Khadeejat provided details on several chronic conditions that impact life span. She also discussed the social determinants of health, which impact access to health care. Lastly, she noted policy interventions that can improve life expectancy and identified several topics that JCHC may wish to consider for future studies. She answered members' questions throughout her presentation.

Jen Piver-Renna, Deputy Director and Chief Methodologist, briefed members on findings and policy options from the report on Policy Solutions to the Commonwealth's Fentanyl Crisis. She discussed the trends of fentanyl use, overdoses, and deaths in the Commonwealth. Jen spoke about the factors that contribute to illicit fentanyl use and the strategies that Virginia agencies are implementing to address abuse of the drug. Jen also described policy options that could enhance current efforts. Lastly, Jen discussed policy options to expand access services for pregnant and parenting women and the incarcerated population. Jen answered members' questions throughout her presentation.

Sarah Stanton summarized the different types of work products that staff could take on for next year's workplan and outlined the process for developing the work plan. Members made suggestions for study topics they would like considered for next year. The Executive Subcommittee will consider the topics in their next meeting in October.

Meeting adjourned.

Senator Favola participated virtually due to a medical condition, Senator Locke participated virtually due to out-of-town trip, Senator Suetterlein participated virtually due to an illness, and Senator Pillion participated virtually due to driving distance.