

VIRGINIA STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

**HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2025 QUARTER 1 MEETING**

Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 236 728 866 855

Passcode: QH7Ez9o4

March 27, 2025, 2:00pm

Members Present

- James Williams
- Scott White
- Lee Biedrycki
- Doug Gray
- Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa
- Lou Rossiter
- Craig Connors
- Kip Piper
- Sheenu Kachru

HBE Staff Present

- Keven B. Patchett
- Holly Mortlock
- Rachel Becker
- Alicia Pullen
- Lynsey Strohminger
- Victoria Drescher

Members Absent

- Janet Kelly
- Cheryl Roberts
- Karen Shelton
- Scott Castro
- Liz Cunningham

Others Present

- Lanette Walker
- Jeff Lunardi
- Hope Richardson

I. Call to Order

Chair Lou Rossiter opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted to confirm attendee participation.

III. DMAS Presentation

Federal Policy Outlook:

- Highlighted potential federal Medicaid changes including work requirements, rollback of recent eligibility regulations, block grants per capita grants, and supplemental payments.

Medicaid Eligibility Study:

- Summary of a General Assembly-mandated review conducted by Boston Consulting Group.
- Identified challenges in Virginia's decentralized eligibility structure and workforce constraints.
- Noted upcoming follow-up work to prioritize and evaluate the 27 recommendations from the study. Focus will be on improving transitions and consumer-facing information for coverage options.
- Link to report will be shared with the VAHBE Advisory Committee

Discussion Highlights:

- Questions raised on income verification integration, eligibility errors, and potential centralization of processes.
- Members stressed opportunities for reducing duplicative work and improving governance.

IV. Director's Update – Marketplace Operations

Key Operational Activities:

- Completion of Open Enrollment for Plan Year 2025
- General Assembly Session
- Issuance of IRS Form 1095-A for tax credit recipients
- Ongoing federal and security audits
- Vendor management and system updates
- Payment Integrity and Program Integrity
- Facilitated Enrollment Implementation
- Eligibility Notice Redesign

Data & Metrics:

- Progress shared on expanding and visualizing metrics as requested by the committee.
- Continued work with external consultants for final metric design.

Enrollment Overview:

- Total plan selections decreased by ~3%.
- Significant 22% increase in new enrollees attributed to enhanced outreach and marketing.
- Call center performance improved with reduced wait times and call abandonment.
- Contributing Factors:
 - Post-transition from healthcare.gov.
 - Medicaid unwinding led to temporary dual enrollments.
 - Economic strength and employer-based coverage contributed to marketplace declines.

Comparative Data:

- Virginia's enrollment trends aligned with peer states despite unique local dynamics.

Policy Updates – HBE Deputy Director, Holly Mortlock

Pregnancy SEP:

- New special enrollment period for pregnancy enacted via state legislation.
- Stakeholder comments requested by April 18.

Network Adequacy:

- Virginia adopting federal standards for time and distance in Plan Year 2026.
- Reviews supported by Quest Analytics.

Federal Rule Proposal (CMS):

- Overview of proposed changes to marketplace operations and eligibility, including:
 - Ending \$0 premium auto-enrollments.
 - Rescinding eligibility for DACA recipients.
 - Shortens open enrollment period.
 - Removing special enrollment for low-income households.
- Comments being prepared for CMS in coordination with stakeholders.

Discussion Highlights:

- Members inquired into the status of EDE. Enhanced Direct Enrollments (EDE) have not been incorporated into current technology platform.
- It was raised whether the decrease in federal funding for healthcare.gov navigator program will impact Virginia's Insurance Marketplace – this will not be the case as Virginia's navigator program is now funded and administered at the state-level.

V. Other Business

Next Meeting Date is June 26th, 2025.

- Overview from VDH on Ryan White Program

VI. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:42pm.