



Oregon
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Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB) Inaugural Meeting
Tuesday, April 16th, 2024
Minutes

Web link to the meeting video: [4.16.24 UHPGB Meeting Recording](#)

Web link to the meeting materials: <https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/uhpgb/Pages/2024-meetings.aspx>

- [4.16.24 UHPGB Agenda](#)
- [4.16.24 UHPGB PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Call to order:

Executive Director Morgan Cowling called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Welcome remarks and Introductions:

Oregon Sen. James Manning Jr, DCBS Director/Oregon State Insurance Commissioner Andrew Stolfi, and Rep. Travis Nelson welcomed board members to the inaugural meeting.

Roll Call:

Board Members present in person: Helen Bellanca, Debra Diaz, Amy Fellows, Warren George, Bruce Goldberg, Judy Richardson, Cheryl Ramirez

Board Members present virtually: Chunhuei Chi and Michelle Glass

Absent: none

Board Introductions:

Each board member introduced themselves and gave a short bio. You can read their bios here: [Universal Health Care Plan Governance Board Member Bios](#). View the board member introductions at minute [00:12:10](#)

Executive Session:

The board adjourned to executive session for legal advice pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f). This portion of the meeting was not open to the public with the exception of the media and staff. No votes were taken.

Return to Open Session:

The board returned to open session and roll call was taken. All board members were present.

Election of Board Chair, Vice Chair:

Executive Director Cowling led the board through a nomination and election of a chair and vice chair. Director Cowling reviewed the election process and then opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Dr. Goldberg nominated Helen Bellanca for Chair and she accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Chair and no objection to Dr. Bellanca assuming the Chair role. Next, Director Cowling moved to Vice-Chair and opened nominations. Dr. Goldberg nominated Warren George and Mr. Geroge accepted. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair and no objection to Mr. George assuming the Vice-Chair role. View the election at minute [00:23:20](#)

Executive Director Resolutions:

Chair Bellanca turned review of the resolutions over to Vice-Chair George who proposed the two resolutions.

Vice-Chair George read Resolution I:

“Whereas Morgan Cowling has been duly appointed by The Governor to serve as the initial Executive Director of the SB 1089 Universal Health Plan Governance Board (The Board), and Whereas SB 1089 outlines the Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Universal Health Plan Governance Board once that body has been appointed and confirmed, Therefore, The Universal Health Plan Governance Board, having been appointed and confirmed, welcomes Morgan Cowling as the initial Executive Director.”

Cherryl Ramirez moved approval of the motion and Judy Richardson seconded the motion (via hand). The motion passed unanimously, no objection.

Vice-Chair George read Resolution II:

“Whereas the Executive Director serves at the pleasure of The Board, and Whereas The Board has a desire to promote a collaborative relationship with its Executive Director, and promote a clear working environment for its Executive Director. Therefore, The Board shall appoint from its members, an Evaluation Subcommittee of not less than three members whose duties shall consist of:

1. No less than 90 days after passage of this resolution shall draft an Outline of Expectations for the Executive Director consisting of short sentence and compatible with state law, to be approved by the entire board in regular session.

2. Shall meet no less frequently than annually for the purposes of preparing an Evaluation of Performance of the Executive Director in respect of the Outline of Expectation, and for the purpose of meeting with the Executive Director to convey and discuss the Evaluation of Performance to the Executive Director including any opportunities for improvement if any.”

Ms. Richardson moved approval of the motion and Amy Fellows seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, no objection.

You can view the Resolution review at minute [00:26:45](#)

UHPGB Policies and Procedures

Board counsel Jacob Gill presented the proposed policies and procedures for the Board and advised where to find these documents. These are drafts for the Board to review and provide feedback. You can view the drafts here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/uhpqb/Documents/2024/april/UHPGB-policies-procedures-draft.pdf>

<https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/uhpqb/Documents/2024/april/UHPGB-delegation-draft.pdf>

- Once approved and implemented, the policies and procedures will be reviewed annually but can be changed by the Board at any time.
- Board members will submit their feedback/comments to Director Cowling at least 2 weeks prior to the next board meeting.

You can view the UHPGB Policies and Procedures at minute: [00:31:32](#)

SB 1089 Board Responsibilities and Deliverables:

Director Cowling led the Board through reviewing the Welcome Packet. [Materials 9.1](#)

Director Cowling introduced the UHPGB Staff to the Board – Senior Policy Analyst Jennifer Donovan and Executive Assistant Katy DeLuca. Director Cowling asked Coverage Policy Lead for the Division of Health Policy and Analytics, Laurel Swerdlow, to review the Oregon Health Authority capacity to support this effort. Ms. Swerdlow shared that two limited duration Policy Analysts will be hired at the Oregon Health Authority to support the Universal Health Plan Governance Board. In the interim, Devlin Prince and Laurel Swerdlow will be serving as the main point persons from Oregon Health Authority.

Director Cowling reviewed the major deliverables as outlined in SB 1089, starting with a brief background of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. The date that the comprehensive plan to finance and administer a universal health plan is due to the Oregon Legislature's Health Care Committees by September 15, 2026.

Dr. Goldberg provided feedback around the Board needing a work plan that outlines exactly what committees and committee structure we'll need, when/how we'll elicit outside expertise to help us, etc. Chair Bellanca suggested that we review standard definitions of the different roles within the Governance Board – such as sub committees, work groups, technical advisors, etc. This will be part of our next steps as a Board to include as we put together the work plan. Another future request for a board meeting agenda item is to have the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) present on current health care reforms in Oregon that are ongoing and parallel to the work of the board. Vice-Chair George advised the board that as we begin getting into the workplan and board members identify their interests/what they want to focus on, to let Chair and Vice-Chair know so that members can be placed accordingly in committees. Mr. George shared that it will be helpful for the board to work to identify any information deficits from the Task Force's work that would help the entire board have a uniform understanding of the starting point for the Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB). Mr. George also shared that it will be important to take inventory of where we lack information from the Task Force's work, where we can get that information, and how we can move forward as a new group, the UHPGB. You can view the SB 1098 Board Responsibilities and Deliverables at minute: [00:35:40](#)

Establish 2024 Meeting Calendar:

Chair Bellanca reviewed the proposed meeting calendar for the Board through the end of 2024. [Materials 10.1](#)

The Board agreed on the proposed schedule – with meetings held monthly on the third Thursday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The board shared that hybrid meetings are favorable, but it would also be great for people to attend in-person. These meetings will continue as hybrid so that people can attend in person or virtually.

- Board Member Chunhuei Chi stated that he will be unable to attend the August and December sessions due to being out of the country working on other projects. But he does not want to change the schedule for those reasons.
- Board Member Michelle Glass suggested that we consider moving the December Board Meeting to earlier in the month due to the fact it is very close to holidays and family travel time.

You can view the 2024 Meeting Calendar topic at minute [00:53:26](#)

Discuss Future Meeting Topics:

Chair Bellanca lead the Board through pages 11-12 of the Power Point presentation regarding future meeting topics and priorities and asked the Board what additional topics we need to review in future meetings.

- Ms. Fellows pointed out that we need to include ODDS (Oregon Development Disability Services) in the agency integration.
- Dr. Goldberg suggested the following future topics: Community engagement, ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) and Long-Term Care.
- Chair Bellanca suggested that it would be nice to have Dr. Chi present at a future meeting about his experience implementing single payer healthcare in Taiwan as well as lessons learned from this process.
- Dr. Chi suggested that we look at considering including two things: what is the underlining ethical foundation of our Universal Health Care system and what is the goal objective of the system.

- Ms. Ramirez suggested that we review other countries' plans/implementation processes that have Universal Health Care. Ms. Ramirez also suggested we ensure to include what's covered and who's covered with this plan.
- Additional work will also need to be done around lessons learned from previous attempts in the U.S. when attempting to implement Universal Health Care.
- Chair Bellanca advised the Board that Director Cowling and staff will be putting together a resource library on the UHPGB website. Dr. Chi added that the World Health Organization's Universal Health Coverage. Provides robust resources through their website.

You can view Future Meeting Topics discussion at minute [00:59:15](#)

Public Comment:

Tom Sincic, retired nurse practitioner, provided public testimony. He suggested that clarity be provided around the interaction that Board Members can have with the public on an individual basis outside of board meetings as it relates to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board. Additionally, are board members able to discuss information with each other outside of board meetings? Tom also suggested that public comment be included at every Board Meeting. Tom also shared ideas for future agenda items: Medicaid waivers (partnering with states that have passed this initiative/SB 770) and what does the budget for the Governance Board look like, because extra funding may be needed for consulting. Should the Board, through the agency, ask for additional funding sooner than later to ensure work is able to get done? Lastly, Tom shared that a focus on the Board engaging the community will be key and was an area of opportunity from the previous Task Force. Vice-Chair George agreed with Tom on engaging with the community and keeping people informed and keeping our ears open. Dr. Goldberg agreed that it will be helpful for all board members to understand the budget, so we know how much we have for consultants, etc. Dr. Chi shared that Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates are planning to have a public meeting on the weekend of May 18-19. They have invited Vice-Chair Warren and Dr. Chi to attend the meeting so they can hear from the public on their concerns around Universal Health Care for Oregon. Dr. Chi will send an email to Director Cowling about this meeting once the details are finalized. You can view Public Comment at minute [01:14:00](#)

Adjournment:

Chair Bellanca shared that she heard that a practice of the Joint Task Force was to end with a quote, inspirational saying, or haiku. She turned it over to Vice-Chair George to share a quote: "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" T.S. Eliot and Chair Bellanca adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.