



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**  
**September 2024**

**Subarea Health Planning Councils (SACs)**

- Hawaii** The Hawaii County Subarea Health Planning Council (HCSAC) met on July 23, 2024. The members continued the process to identify and share HCSAC priorities for 2024 and beyond. The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2024.
- Honolulu** The Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council meeting scheduled for July 11, 2024, was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2024.
- Kauai** The Kauai County Subarea Health Planning Council did not meet in July. The next meet is scheduled for August 6, 2024.
- Tri-Isle** The Tri-Isle Subarea Health Planning Council (TISAC) met did not meet in July. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2024.
- West Oahu** The West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council met on July 17, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2024.
- Windward Oahu** The Windward Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council did not meet in July. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

**Statewide Health Coordinating Council**

The Statewide Health Coordinating Council did not meet in August. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

### **Statewide Health Coordinating Council-Plan Development Committee**

The Plan Development Committee did not meet in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2024.

### **Advisory Councils**

**Data** The Data Advisory Council did not meet in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2024.

**Keiki** The Keiki Advisory Council did not meet in August. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

**Kupuna** The Kupuna Advisory Council did not meet in August. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

**Universal Access** The Universal Access Advisory Council met on August 14, 2024. During the meeting, SHPDA presented information about the AHEAD grant award to the State and shared insights from other states on the AHEAD model. This was followed by a question-and-answer session. The council then turned its attention to redefining its purpose and goals, with an emphasis on clarifying the concept of "Access." The next meeting has not been scheduled.

### **Health System Reform**

September was mainly devoted to onboarding the recently awarded AHEAD federal grant, which will focus on health system reform between now and 2035. Both DHS Med-QUEST Division (MQD) and SHPDA, the joint applicants, will each be hiring two directly federally funded staff to help manage the grant, and to oversee the contractor-consultants who will help plan and organize the grant implementation, which officially begins January 2027 after the current 2-year Pre-Implementation Period.

### **Health System Reform (con't)**

SHPDA is also exploring possible legislative measures related to health system reform, including streamlining insurance prior authorization, considering a legislatively empowered pharmaceutical council (similar to other states) to monitor pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and work with the federal government to lower the costs to consumers of very high-price prescriptions. We are also considering strategies to assist DCCA in expediting new health professions licensure processes, and in considering license reciprocities with western states to help reduce workforce shortages of physicians, nurses, behavioral health professionals, and social workers. SHPDA is also working on strategies to reduce opioid addiction in younger people through introduction of tamper-proof medicine bottles. Finally, SHPDA has reached out to statewide health plans (insurers) with references to law firms that are assisting states to be fairly compensated as part of multi-billion-dollar national class-action lawsuits to reconcile historic pharmaceutical price-gouging for insulin and many other generic drugs. Thus far, Hawai'i is not participating, but could be eligible for \$100s of millions.

(Reported by Jack Lewin MD, Administrator)

### **Research and Statistics**

As of August 31, 2024, the response rate for SHPDA's annual health care utilization survey for calendar year 2023 was at 94.4%. The research statistician is finalizing the 2023 Health Care Utilization Report and continuing to work with health care facilities/providers that/who had yet to respond to the survey.

### **The Hawaii Health Data Center (HHDC) Project Team**

The HHDC met for its quarterly meeting in August and reviewed the status of the HI All-Payer Claims Database (APCD). Ranjani Starr of DHS MQD, and Director of the Health Analytics Program (HAP), gave a comprehensive report on the APCD status, before moving to a new position in DHS. The new HAP Director, Tonya Lowrey St John PhD MPH, assumed the HAP leadership role in mid-August. The APCD is now slated to be operational in mid-2025. Additional funding will be provided from the AHEAD grant to assure its full functionality for grant reporting purposes during the Pre-Implementation Period for AHEAD, beginning now through January 2027. The APCD will be an essential tool for measuring success and progress with AHEAD between 2027 and 2035.

(HHDC updates will continue to be provided in the February, May, August, and November reports.)

**Certificate of Need Applications**

- #23-06A Malama Hospice and Palliative Care LLC  
Establishment of hospice services at 75-5706 Hanama Place, Unit 103, Kailua-Kona, HI.  
Incomplete. Waiting for applicant's revisions.
- #23-08 Worldwide Molecular Solutions, LLC  
Establishment of PET/CT scanner services at 677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suites 108 & 120, Honolulu, HI.  
Letter sent to applicant requesting information. Waiting for response.
- #24-02 Shalom Hospice LLC  
Establishment of hospice services at 677 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI.  
Decision pending.
- #24-06A Specialty Surgical Suites, LLC  
Addition of cardiac surgical procedures at 1401 S. Beretania Street, Suite 600, Honolulu, HI.  
Approved August 13, 2024.
- #24-07 Pacific Pearl Medical, LLC  
Establishment of Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanner services at 53 S. Puunene Ave., Kahului, HI.  
Scheduling for September reviews.
- #24-08 Pacific Pearl Medical, LLC  
Establishment of Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scanner services at 250 Kinoole Street, Hilo, HI.  
Scheduling for September reviews.
- #24-09 The Queen's Medical Center  
Acquisition and renovation of the hospital located at 91-2301 Old Fort Weaver Rd, Ewa Beach, HI.  
Decision pending.