



**HAWAII STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402 • Honolulu, HI 96813 • Phone: (808) 587-0788 • [www.shpda.org](http://www.shpda.org)**  
**Kauai County Subarea Health Planning Council**

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 16, 2024**  
**12:30 PM Hawaii Time**

Virtual Zoom Meeting and Physical Location at the  
 Keoni Ana Building, 1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402

- MEMBERS:** Jillian Kelekoma, Nicholas Pananganan
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jen Chahanovich
- SHPDA:** John Lewin, Terry Visperas

**ATTENDANCE RECORD OF APPOINTED MEMBERS**

<b>Date</b>	3/17/22	6/20/22	8/18/22	2/14/23	3/14/23	6/13/23	8/8/23	2/13/24	4/9/24	12/16/24
Jen Chahanovich	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	O
Jillian Kelekoma*	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nicholas Pananganan**	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	O	X

Legend: X=Present; O=Absent; /=No Meeting \*-Chair, \*\*-Vice Chair

Meeting recording:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/share/dN85vzT4myCOFe0cQg522e8yZHrKhHBPsa-eKTw2sb8anZ5v5e74ClxLm4rOIsiF.GsYL2pnx3D45UNly>

Passcode: yWum@y5z

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. with J. Kelekoma, Chair, KCSAC presiding.	
Row Call/Introductions	Jillian Kelekoma, Nicholas Pananganan	
Meeting Minutes	<p>Motion to accept the minutes from the April 9, 2024, meeting.</p> <p>Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.</p> <p>Call for public testimony – none.</p>	
Administrator’s Report	The Administrator’s Report was distributed and reviewed.	
KCSAC Priorities	<p>J. Kelekoma and N. Pananganan shared the following as priorities:</p> <p>Access to Care: This priority goes beyond just physical healthcare facilities and includes broader access to education and community knowledge. It's about raising awareness that care options, like palliative care, are available and not just limited to end-of-life services. The conversation emphasizes that people need to understand palliative care as a comprehensive support system, not just hospice care. Community education is seen as crucial to overcoming misconceptions.</p> <p>Palliative Care Awareness: There is a focus on improving public understanding of palliative care, which is often mistaken for hospice care. Education is needed to show that palliative care can help people improve their quality of life and is not a sign of giving up. Jillian shared a personal experience with palliative care, highlighting its effectiveness in improving outcomes for patients.</p> <p>Workforce Development: Addressing workforce issues is another key priority. Jillian stressed the importance of growing and retaining a skilled healthcare workforce. This challenge extends beyond healthcare to the broader community, and finding ways to train and keep workers is critical for sustaining healthcare services.</p>	

State Health Planning and  
Development Agency  
(SHPDA) – Updates

Housing Insecurity: The issue of housing insecurity is identified as a barrier to healthcare access, particularly for patients who need elective surgeries. Housing insecurity prevents patients from undergoing necessary procedures, which can lead to emergencies later. Addressing housing instability is therefore seen as essential to improving healthcare outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations.

N. Pananganan, stated that, “Jillian hit the nail on the head,” elaborated similar points as priorities:

Workforce Development: A major priority highlighted here is the challenge of workforce retention, particularly in healthcare. The speaker, coming from a labor background, stresses that workforce development isn’t just about training but also about addressing the hardships that workers face, including the high cost of living. These challenges make it difficult to keep local talent within the community and can exacerbate workforce shortages.

Housing and Cost of Living: The issue of housing insecurity and the high cost of living is again emphasized as a major barrier not only to healthcare access but also to retaining a skilled workforce. The rising costs make it hard for workers to stay in their communities, affecting the stability and availability of healthcare staff.

The summary reveals a strong focus on workforce retention and addressing the economic challenges that affect both workers and access to care.

J. Lewin, SHPDA Administrator, provided the following updates (*Attachment A*):

The state has secured the AHEAD (All Pair Health Equity Approaches and Development) grant, a significant federal funding opportunity for improving healthcare access. However, progress is slow due to the lengthy qualification process for federal positions and bureaucratic hurdles.

The state has \$2.5 million annually for 5 years (totaling \$12 million), but the real financial benefit will come after 2027, when implementation begins, potentially leading to hundreds of millions in funding for hospitals, doctors, and clinics.

The All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development Model (AHEAD) Grant. Application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid was submitted on time. Hawaii applied to the AHEAD Cohort 2 which will allow for 2.5 years of planning during the Pre-Implementation phase.

SHPDA will be looking to the KCSAC to provide advice on priorities and issues at the county level.

<p>Member Announcements</p>	<p>Public testimony – none.</p> <p>Will defer to next February meeting.</p> <p>Proposed Future 2025 KCSAC Meeting Dates:</p> <p>2025 Calendar of Meeting Dates goal of every 3rd Monday of every other month starting February 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• February 17, 2025 (<i>need to reschedule due to State Holiday</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposed Monday, February 3, 2025, 12:30 PM or</li><li>• Proposed Monday, February 24, 2025, 12:30 PM.</li></ul></li><li>• April 21, 2025</li><li>• June 16, 2025</li><li>• August 18, 2025</li><li>• October 20, 2025</li><li>• December 15, 2025</li></ul>	
<p>Next Meeting/Agenda</p>	<p>Proposed, February 10th because normal 3rd Monday in February is Presidents Day Holiday.</p>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>I will send an email to the members requesting an alternative date, as February 10th is already reserved for another SHPDA meeting. The email will recommend Monday, February 3rd at 12:30 PM or Monday, February 24th at 12:30 PM.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.</p>	

**Please see attachment A**

## SHPDA Draft 2025 Top 9 Priorities

Note: The following draft priorities will be reviewed with Hawai'i's major insurers, hospitals, physicians, nurses, dentists, long-term care and other providers, consumer groups and government agencies for their feedback and suggestions before finalizing.

1. **The uninsured:** While the uninsured problem in Hawai'i seems to some to be less serious than for other states, we still have 5-6% of citizens who lack coverage. There are disputes about the accurate numbers. Nonetheless, this needs to be addressed to guarantee access for all citizens.
2. **Medical debt:** The problem of medical debt relates to both financial vulnerability of both uninsured and underinsured persons. While this has historically not been much of an identified problem in Hawai'i, it has become one, and needs to be addressed. It basically relates to insurance coverage gaps and needs for better consumer education about health coverage.
3. **The Healthcare Workforce:** Hawai'i has an excellent health care system for a rural and small state overall. But primary care and specialty care access, across a wide array of professional categories including behavioral health and social services, is a growing and serious shortfall. The workforce gaps in long-term care and home and community-based services must also be addressed as a top priority. The growing primary care gap, which is exacerbated in rural health care shortage areas, also in part relates to financial disparities between primary care and specialty incomes. FQHCs are helping to address this gap, but it needs to be a state focus for SHPDA, the Governor, the Legislature, UH, HAH, EOA, and us all until it is resolved. We do not want, nor can we afford, to have emergency departments fill this gap. The Governor's HELP loan forgiveness program will help with recruitment, but retention is another matter to be addressed; and funding for training of new healthcare professionals needs to be ramped up. In the interim, new models of care using AI and technology, remote monitoring systems, advanced home and community-based care innovation, community health workers (CHWs) and other approaches also need to be explored. Also, see Priority #9 regarding expedited credentialing.
4. **Rising health care costs and affordability of health coverage.** The US expects to be spending \$7 trillion annually on health care by 2030 (the country spent \$4.6 trillion in 2023). Hawai'i is part of the US health care "non-system." We need to chart our own unique path to maintaining affordability of and access to care for all here. Working with other agencies, SHPDA is charged with estimating and monitoring total annual health care spending, with comparison to other states and the nation. We need to work with key health sector participants to slow avoidable rises in cost and assure ongoing affordability. We also need to focus on increasing primary care access to reduce avoidable inpatient and ED use. Finally, re-balancing spending for institutional long-term care toward increased home and community-based services is also a key priority and opportunity for SHPDA, Med-QUEST, EOA, and palliative care providers.
5. **The AHEAD grant:** CMS announced in early July that Vermont, Maryland, Connecticut and Hawai'i are the first four states to be awarded the ambitious AHEAD Collaborative Agreement (grant). Funding and pre-implementation planning will commence immediately. SHPDA and Med-QUEST, as the co-applicants for the state, will receive about \$12 million over the initial 5 years of AHEAD for administration; planning; actuarial services; data acquisition, analytics, and innovation; and other contractual services. AHEAD will also provide up to \$50 million a year beginning in January 2027 for grant implementation. This funding will be paid directly to

participating hospitals and providers from 2027 through 2035 for Hawai'i to improve primary care access, including addressing -- as part of "advanced" primary care -- more of the behavioral health and social determinants of health factors adversely impacting health outcomes and population health. For the state to receive these benefits, which has broad local support, CMS requires that a majority hospitals must begin the task of shifting their reimbursement to value based approaches, including in addition to providing high quality acute and emergency care, to increasing their responsibility *with new incentives* to improve the health of their communities served, and to do so in ways that reduce avoidable ED use and inpatient care. CMS intends to establish this kind of value-based future nationally by their goal of 2030 for all of Medicare and Medicaid. AHEAD gives us a head start. We need to use the state-directed resources to collaborate with insurers, hospitals, and other providers on a Hawai'i-specific approach to helping the nation find a viable path to ongoing affordability and improvement of health care in terms of modernizing hospital and provider reimbursement and advanced data tracking methodologies. The overall goal is to foster a systematic approach to population health improvement and sustainable affordability.

6. **The Federal funding equity gap:** Hawai'i deserves and sorely needs to be funded equitably with other states by the federal government in per capita Medicare and Medicaid payment, and in geographic (GPCI) professional reimbursement. This is critical to the viability of our hospitals, providers, and insurers. SHPDA plans to organize a massive coordinated statewide campaign to assist our Congressional delegation in bringing Hawai'i to parity in these regards, given our highest average cost-of-living and cost-of housing circumstance among states. In Medicare alone, the difference between Hawaii's per capita reimbursement and the national average could increase state funding by over one billion dollars if parity is achieved.
7. **Using health care data to improve population health and health outcomes:** SHPDA, in collaboration with Med-Quest, the Insurance Commissioner, HI HIE, UH, and the entire health sector, has an opportunity and responsibility to facilitate the state's ability to become an increasingly sophisticated source of curated, de-identified, and privacy-assured claims and clinical data to support insurers, health systems, hospitals, LTC facilities, and providers in systematically improving healthcare, long-term care, and population health outcomes together. The approach could be parallel how the American College of Cardiology's National Cardiovascular Data Registries (NCDR) has used its 200 million annual inpatient and outpatient records to improve CV care nationally. This can be accomplished by privately and confidentially sharing outcomes data with health care providers (health systems, hospitals, and physicians) to allow them to compare and improve their performance against national standards and benchmarks. Queen's and HPH-Straub already participate in NCDR, but do not see the other's data. What could be shared publicly is how the state at large fares against other states in terms of outcomes and per capita costs, and where the gaps exist that need to be addressed by us collectively. For SHPDA, Med-QUEST, and UH, this challenge requires that the state's All-Payer Claims Database (APCD), legislatively mandated under SHPDA's authority for all insurers, becomes fully operational by 2026. Funding assistance will also be needed to assist the Hawai'i HIE to achieve full functionality, to promote collaboration with the Laulima database of the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, and to improve health IT connectivity for FQHCs, critical access hospitals, and independent community providers as part of this vision.

That said, modern and most secure healthcare data systems are evolving to cloud based interoperable systems that enable complex tracking, calculations, and analytics to occur with data being securely retrieved from but remain in its myriad sources for such uses without the need for data vaults or storage. This approach is not only more secure, but it is much more acceptable to insurers, hospitals, and providers, including government, and should be considered here.

8. **Prior Authorization:** The process of prior authorization (PA) has become very contentious nationally and is an increasing public and provider concern regarding alleged and real denials and delays of appropriate care here. Its intended purpose for insurers is to reduce costs related to unnecessary or inappropriate care. However, the relatively new common practice of insurers choosing to contract with other firms to manage their PA has exacerbated the growing tension, given the perverse incentives of the contracted firms to make more money by denying more claims. While this issue is not a top priority in SHPDA's wheelhouse, we are the agency of government where concerns expressed to the Governor and other state agencies related to healthcare are typically referred for response, along with the office of the Insurance Commissioner in DCCA. SHPDA and the Insurance Commissioner will be conferring about the issue, given the certainty of legislative measures being proposed to attempt to resolve it. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently published a new PA -related regulation, *CMS-0057-F* which sets timeline and policy parameters around PA to be fully implemented by 2027. Other states are also submitting bills on proposed improvements and policy parameters for PA. there will be proposals this year in our legislature.

SHPDA wants to see available high-tech innovations employed in our state approach around this matter. The standards and approved and valid guidelines for most major disease states are available and frequently updated by professional societies and academic institutions – some also from the FDA and the NCCN for cancer. Using AI and electronic means to help doctors assure that their patient workups contain all essential information for a PA approval, and offering insurers transparent use of such standards and guidelines (hopefully by statewide agreement among companies) to electronically adjudicate and streamline approvals would greatly improve the process. All participants, including the payers, are frustrated by the hassles and expense of PA as it is currently conducted. Let's fix it in Hawai'i!

9. **Credentialing of Clinicians:** Strategizing on expediting credentialing of physicians, nurses, behavioral health clinicians, social workers and other short-supply clinicians with DCCA; and also consideration of reciprocity agreements between Hawai'i and western states for expanded telemedicine coverage for primary care, specialist care, behavioral health, and social service needs.