



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

Meeting Minutes
West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council (WOSAC)
January 22, 2025 | 12:00 Noon Hawaii Time
Virtually via Zoom and Physical Meeting Location at
The Keoni Ana Building, 1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402

MEMBERS: Frederick Shaw, Eric Barsatan, Barbara Yamashita
MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Inocencio
GUESTS: None
SHPDA: John Lewin, Wendy Nihoa, Terry Visperas

ATTENDANCE RECORD OF APPOINTED MEMBERS

Date	3/15/23	5/24/23	7/18/23	11/15/23	3/20/24	5/15/24	7/17/24	9/18/24	1/22/25
Eric Barsatan	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	O	X
Beverly Inocencio	X	X	X	O	X	X	O	O	O
Fredrick Shaw	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barbara Yamashita								X	X

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

Meeting Recording:

https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/share/iqqmFE5H6G_EgXCn7F8-6M9QaWQBMzQ5gy1bsmBu7zgDkdwCr9mK0ny2ewcg-dJ2.Q2_mb9ONCxcvGdvg

Passcode: h=C7s4?j

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Eric Barsatan, Member.	
Minutes	<p>Motion to accept the minutes from the September 18, 2024, meeting.</p> <p>Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried.</p> <p>Public testimony – None.</p>	
Administrator’s Report	<p>The Administrator’s Report was reviewed. All Administrator’s Reports may be accessible via the State Health Planning and Development Agency’s website at https://health.hawaii.gov/shpda/agency-resources-and-publications/administrators-reports/</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	
WOSAC Priorities	Members were encouraged to reflect on and contribute to the development of a collective goal by sharing ideas and objectives they would like to address, with the support of SHPDA.	
State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) Updates	<p>J. Lewin, SHPDA Administrator, provided the following updates:</p> <p>The goals for SHPDA 2025 Governor’s briefing have been reduced from 9 to 7, and changes were made to combine some goals related to rising healthcare costs and Medicare underfunding. The focus is on addressing the rapidly increasing costs of healthcare, which are outpacing general inflation, creating affordability issues. The U.S. is spending over \$5 trillion annually on healthcare, and by 2037, that number could reach \$7 trillion, putting pressure on both wages and taxes. Healthcare costs, especially in Hawaii, are rising at rates 2-3 times faster than general inflation, which could make healthcare unaffordable in the long term.</p> <p>Medicare funding in Hawaii is notably low compared to other states, especially considering the high cost of living. This has led to difficulties in sustaining healthcare providers, as hospitals and doctors are underpaid for Medicare services. There's a need to increase Medicare reimbursements to the national average, which could require additional lobbying efforts or negotiations with Congress.</p>	

<p>Standing Committee Reports/Updates Announcements</p> <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Additionally, the state's efforts to improve healthcare data collection, such as the All-Payer Claims Database, are progressing, with plans to go live in 2025. This data will help analyze healthcare issues, like the uninsured population, and identify gaps in care.</p> <p>The discussion also touches on the issue of prior authorization in insurance, which delays care and wastes resources. HMSA, the insurance provider in Hawaii, has a high claim denial rate, and there are ongoing efforts to address this, including automating prior authorization processes and increasing transparency around claim denials.</p> <p>Lastly, there's a recognition of the need to speed up the licensing and credentialing process for healthcare professionals to address workforce shortages, but this is more of a longer-term issue that requires cooperation with the relevant authorities. A discussion followed.</p> <p>Public testimony – none.</p> <p>No committee reports or updates.</p> <p>T. Visperas shared that SHPDA is excited to have a new team member, Paula Doan is our new Administrative Assistant. Paula comes to us highly qualified and has a rich history with DOH.</p> <p>Public testimony – none.</p> <p>No other announcements.</p> <p>Thursday, March 20, 2025, 1 PM.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.</p>	
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