

**ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (HACDACS)**

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD), Department of Health (DOH), State of Hawai'i

**Kākuhihewa Building, 601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 317, Kapolei, Hawai'i**

**October 28, 2025**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

Members Present: Lilinoe Kauahikaua, MSW, Co-Chair; Dave Fields, Co-Chair; Emily Andrade, Kunane Drier, Jon Fujii; Ku ulei Salzer-Vitale, MSW; Jawanna Ready, MD.

Members Absent: John Paul Moses III ARPR-R , Vice-Chair;

Staff Present: John Valera, AICP; Robyn Loudermilk, AICP.

Guests Present None

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
1. Call to Order:	The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.			
2. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of September 23, 2025.	<b>Motion by Co-Chair Kauahikaua, seconded by Commissioner Ready to adopt minutes from the September 23, 2025, meeting. Motion approved.</b>	<b>Motion unanimously approved.</b>		
3. Community Input:  [Pursuant to section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, all interested persons will have three (3) minutes to speak, i.e., per person, per item, or written testimony can be submitted on agenda items]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No community input provided.</li> </ul>			
4. Discussion on whether to reschedule November 25, 2025, meeting.	<p>Co-chair Kauahikaua led the discussion on whether to reschedule the meeting.</p> <p>There will be no meeting in November. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday December 16, 2025, from 9am to 11am.</p>			
5. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch of INSPIRE PLUS.</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Valera reported on the launch of INSPIRE PLUS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INSPIRE PLUS is ADADs new electronic health record system in which Phase I went live yesterday (October 27, 2025). Implementing a previous HACDACS recommendation from</li> </ul>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
	<p>several years ago for a new system to replace WITS (Web Infrastructure for Treatment Services).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established a response room to provide live support to assist the approximately 700+ users. Looks reasonably well. Continue to log issues that emerge such as bugs and user access.</li> <li>• Data migration was successful though some records did not transfer. Working with service providers and IT consultants to address outstanding issues.</li> <li>• Have set up a “Wiki-Site” to support the various service providers and assessors. A one stop shop providing a number of training resources such as videos and user guides. Also includes various communications providing alerts. Link to the INSPIRE PLUS webpage provided in the chat.</li> <li>• Currently in Phase II to fix issues with Phase I as well as enhance capabilities for fiscal and reporting needs.</li> </ul> <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua led the discussion on ADADs report. She commented that she liked the training site and that it is very helpful especially for onboarding.</p> <p>In response to questions Mr. Valera clarified that Phase I is “go live”, Phase II is to “fix”, and Phase III will build out the provider portal to process various credentials for substance use professional and substance use facilities. Phase I allows providers to submit batch billings, however, in the future would like to include billing for 270 and 271.</p> <p>Currently the credential process is manual and very labor intensive. A provider portal will allow for new applications and renewals as well as provide on demand credentialing information for individuals. If</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
	<p>parameters are right, also looking to use AI (artificial intelligence) as part of the screening process.</p> <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua shared that there is an AI study with community health workers in homestead and other communities that may be of interest to ADAD. Dr, Peter Mataida and his team are using AI to decrease the amount of assessment time to create a treatment program. Study is in either the second or third year.</p> <p>Mr. Valera noted that any use cases leveraging AI to make a process more efficient will be helpful. ADADs IT vendor is also looking at other states, in both public and private settings, using AI to review documents. Important to have a live body to check the work.</p>			
6. Identification of Areas of Focus for the Next Twelve-months.	<p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua led the discussion on areas of focus. At the last meeting talked about coordination of services probably being the theme and bringing in speakers to speak to that.</p> <p>Commissioner Andrade commented that in light of the earlier discussion on AI, she is curious if anyone in the DOH or state has talked about ethics and AI. How is AI used and what are the impacts. Are there existing policies? What would they be and how would these policies impact clients who receive substance use treatment. Are these conversations are not happening? AI is a great tool and need to consider its use from an ethics perspective. Will need to think through more.</p> <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua also shared that the use of AI is a concern in relation to culture. She could reach out to the Opioid Response Network on potential speakers.</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
	<p>Commissioner Andrade noted that maybe this could be a combined presentation with someone from the DOH.</p> <p>Ms. Loudermilk shared that Mr. Valera informed her that the DOH does have an AI policy.</p> <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua is interested in how culturally grounded services is reflected in billing codes. Aware that the previous electronic health record system included billing codes allowing reimbursement for culturally grounded services. Are these codes part of INSPIRE PLUS? Do these codes show a person being treated in both western and culturally grounded ways. Or still only room for western treatment? We know that culturally grounded treatments are happening in facilities but don't know how they are being logged/tracked.</p> <p>Commissioner Andrade noted that culture should be kept on the agenda every year.</p> <p>Commissioner Drier Kunane suggested some organizations that may be able to speak to this as they are revenue based and bill for services.</p> <p>Commissioner Ready suggested having a coding specialist who can speak to billing for culture. Are there areas being overlooked/opportunities for billing that people don't think about. Also noted that people may have already faced those kinds of questions in Hawaii.</p> <p>Commissioner Fujii commented that he is curious as to what is wanted. Is it to identify, understand, or flag this information? Shared that tried to allow billing for traditional healing practices through the Medicaid 1115 Waiver process. For a number of reasons this</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
	<p>was removed. What is the goal of identification? Is it some sort of marker to existing an existing code in order to track how many people received cultural services, or want to pay for services differently. Commented that medical billing is a profession.</p> <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua responded that for HACDACS, it would be more of the identification part. Though there were codes not everyone knew how to use them. Would like to know do these codes still exist, are they being used, and is there a benefit to using them. If people are not using the codes, would be a great recommendation to educate people on how to use the codes.</p>			
<p>7. Update on meeting topics and presentations for HACDACS meetings in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 2026</li> <li>• February 2026</li> </ul> <p>Potential topics include Medical Cannabis Safety and Testing Policies; Harm Reduction Review based on substance use; Status of Residential Treatment Programs and their trends and needs, Prevention Initiatives, Medication Assisted Treatment for Methamphetamine Use Disorder, the intersection of substance use treatment and the criminal justice system. New topic ideas are encouraged.</p>	<p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua led the discussion on upcoming meeting topics. No specific topics and speakers identified.</p>			
<p>8. Discussion on HACDACS annual report to the Legislature including subject matter areas to be included</p>	<p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua led the discussion on the annual report. She explained the process in developing and preparing the annual report to new members. Also</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
<p>in the report and writing assignments. Topics may include harm reduction and the Veterans Administrations Pacific Islands Health Care Substance Treatment and Recovery Program.</p>	<p>noted that Ms. Loudermilk sent out an email on September 23, 2025, listing the presentations and providing links to meeting recordings.</p> <p>Members volunteered to prepare summaries and recommendations for the following presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pacific Islands Health Care System Substance Treatment and Recovery Program: Commissioner Ready</li> <li>• Overview of Harm Reduction and the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC): Commissioner Dreier</li> <li>• Findings from the Hawaii Opioid Initiative Needs Assessment: Co-Chair Kauahikaua</li> <li>• Hawaii Statewide Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention:</li> <li>• Overview of the Opioid Settlement Project, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission, and Opioid Settlement Trust Spending: Co-Chair Kauahikaua and Commissioner Salzer</li> <li>• Overview of the Med-QUEST Approved 1115 Waiver for Contingency Management: Commissioner Fujii</li> <li>• Recent Changes to the Department of Health Syringe Exchange Program and Overview of Data from HHHRC Syringe Exchange Program: Commissioner Salzer</li> <li>• Addiction Medicine-Psychological Needs of Substance Use Disorder in Inpatient Setting: Commissioner Andrade</li> </ul> <p>Volunteers are needed to prepare the write-up for the Hawaii Statewide Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention. Will follow up with Co-Chair Fields and Commissioner Moses on writing assignments.</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
9. Open Forum:  Public comments on issued not on the agenda, for consideration for Commissions agenda at its next meeting.	No community comments provided.			
10. Adjournment	10:00 a.m.			

**Next Meeting:            December 16, 2025  
   9:00 am to 11:00 am  
   Zoom Meeting**