



Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Meetingⁱ
MINUTES

Date: July 8, 2025
Time: 5:33PM
Location: Via Zoom/By Video or Conference Call Only
Meeting Link: [https://dchealthlink.zoom.us/meeting/register/A5bPGf3tSrWL071U5-vTGA](https://dchealthlink.zoom.us/join/https://dchealthlink.zoom.us/meeting/register/A5bPGf3tSrWL071U5-vTGA)

Members Present: Henry Aaron, Leighton Ku, Diane Lewis, Gabriela Mossi, Khalid Pitts, Karima Woods

Members Absent: Wayne Turnage, Dr. Ayanna Bennett, Rachel Pierre, and Tamara Watkins

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Roll Call

Diane Lewis, Chair

This is a public meeting of the Executive Board of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority. Today is Tuesday, July 8, 2025, and the time is 5:33 PM.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Diane Lewis, Chair

Ms. Lewis asked if there any changes to the agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the Draft Agenda. All in favor, state yes, opposed no. All members will be recorded as voting yes.

Executive Board Business

Executive Board Election Date - *Diane Lewis, Chair*

Pursuant to the Board's Bylaws, the Annual Executive Board Officer Elections are to be held in the third quarter of the year for the three positions of: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer. A majority of board members must agree on a date. Based on the scheduled board meetings and the notice requirements, staff have recommended the board elections be held at the regularly scheduled September meeting of the Executive Board. If accepted, we will take nominations on September 16th. Voting and non-voting HBX board members may make such nominations. A

nomination must be accepted or rejected by the nominee at the September 16th meeting, either orally or in writing published through another Board member physically present - during the meeting where the vote is to occur.

Any questions before the motion and vote to set the date?

Mr. Ku: What does that mean, physically present? We are virtual now.

Ms. Lewis: We will need to check.

Ms. Lewis: I move to have the HBX Board Officer Elections at the September monthly meeting scheduled for September 16, 2025. Second? Approved.

All Board members present approved, Henry Aaron, Leighton Ku, Diane Lewis, Gabriela Mossi, Khalid Pitts, voting by acclamation.

Discussion Items

FY26 Business Partner Grants, Assister Grants, HC4CC Grants– *Mila Kofman, Executive Director*

As background proposals for grant funding all went through the Marketing Committee and the Finance Committee prior to getting to the board. The amounts proposed for FY 26 are in the same amount as is in place for FY5 and is budgeted for these amounts in the FY 26 budget.

Greater DC Hispanic Chamber \$163,000

RAMW \$155,800

DC Chamber - \$187,000

Community of Hope - \$161,365

Leadership Council - \$166,668

Mary Center – \$92,967

Whitman Walker Heath - \$263,200

DC Early Learning Coalition - \$75,000

Multicultural Spanish Speaking Providers Association - \$75,000

FY26 Call Center Contract Option Years 3 and 4 – *Mila Kofman, Executive Director*

For FY 26 and 27 requesting to increase contract ceiling on call center contract. Request is for an additional \$320,000 for FY 26 and \$320,000.12 for FY 27. Raising ceiling to \$4,687,000 for year 3 and \$4,335,000 for Year 4. The reason for request is based on expected increase in call volume related to the Basic Health Program, including people who are losing Medicaid and coming into this program. This would have to go to the Council for approval because the contract is over \$1 million.

Any questions?

Mr. Ku: Assuming we are proceeding with the Basic Health Program, do we have an overall publicity plan. There has not been a lot of news about this so far. But I assume we would want a big blast.

Ms. Kofman: Yes, this is included in my Executive Director report, which is coming later.

Public Comment

Diane Lewis, Chair

Ms. Lewis: any other comments? Hearing none at this time. Are there any public comments?

Hearing none.

Vote

Diane Lewis, Chair

Ms. Lewis: Remember that we are considering the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington grant separately. All in favor of approving the FY26 DC Health Link Business Partner Grants to the DC Chamber of Commerce and Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; FY26 DC Health Link Assister Grants, FY26 HC4CC Grants, and the FY26 Call Center Contract Option Years 3 and 4, state yes, if opposed no. The District has changed voting requirements so people can just indicate yes or no and there is no need for a roll call vote.

All grants and contract proposals, excluding RAMW.

Hearing no opposition, the motion was approved with present voting members Henry Aaron, Leighton Ku, Diane Lewis, Gabriela Mossi, voting by acclimation. Mr. Pitts is recused.

Ms. Kofman stated that this is a basic recusal for Mr. Pitts for RAMW.

Ms. Lewis: Khalid Pitts will recuse on this matter, and we will proceed with the vote.

All in favor of the RAMW Grant, state yes, if opposed, no. All members with the exception of Mr. Pitts will be recorded as Yes. All Board members present approved, Henry Aaron, Leighton Ku, Diane Lewis, Gabriela Mossi, Khalid Pitts, voting by acclimation. Mr. Pitts is recused.

Move to Executive Session

Diane Lewis, Chair

Chair Lewis moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to DC Official Code Sections 5-275(b)(2) and (4), and 31-3171.11 to discuss matters related to contracting, and legal advice.

All Board members present approved, Henry Aaron, Leighton Ku, Diane Lewis, Gabriela Mossi, Khalid Pitts, voting by acclimation.

Ms. Kempf: Karima Woods has joined.

Resumption of Public Session

Diane Lewis, Chair

Finance Committee Report

Henry Aaron

Mr. Aaron: I would like to thank who ever is handing the IT today.

Committee has met four times since the last board meeting. 3/8, 4/3. 5/8 and 6/24. In March we met with the auditors for annual comprehensive financial audit and we got an unqualified report. They had no recommendations and found no deficiencies in our internal controls. That is about as good as it gets with audits. In March and May, we made some routine decisions. The yield curve remained flat and decided to keep terms short to minimize risk. Assets have been kept in money market, securities or short term.

In April we had all reserve accounts in money market funds. We put approx. \$70 million into one month T bills. In May staff from the Treasury briefed the agency. Investment policy and insights into strategy given current volatility. We moved investments into money market funds based on their recommendations. We approved contracts or option years for idea crew NRP health, Maximus and grants. Reviewed spending reports and found nothing of concern. This is as dull a report as you can expect and you should be grateful for it.

Ms Lewis: Thank you, Hank.

Executive Director Report

Mila Kofman, Executive Director

BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING: In early June, Director Turnage and I testified jointly. Board Chair Diane Lewis attended and was available to answer questions. Council is scheduled to vote on the FY26 Budget shortly.

RECONCILIATION BILL: SBMs sent a letter to the House, a letter to the Senate, and issued a statement opposing ACA provisions in the Reconciliation Bill on why bill is troubling -- 18 SBMs on these -- from Idaho to NY and everyone in between and we're speaking with one voice. We're pivoting efforts to educating policymakers about the importance of extending lower premiums; there is a short timeline in many states. Many people who now get lower premiums will see those disappear.

CMS PROGRAM INTEGRITY FINAL RULE: On June 20, HHS released the Program Integrity final rule. The Administration listened to stakeholders arguing for state-based flexibility. The Administration gave state-based marketplaces flexibility in several areas, including Open Enrollment and verification requirements for special enrollment periods recognizing that SBMs have not had the type of fraud problems that the federal marketplace has had. We are appreciative of the changes they made.

BASIC HEALTH PLAN: We are on track to operationalize BHP in preparation for the upcoming Medicaid eligibility changes which go into effect January 1, 2026. We need to do a lot of things between now and November to make sure we are ready. We have a new name: Healthy DC Plan. The transition population is made up of about 25,000 residents (point in time estimate). We will do the determination in a batch. Individuals will not need to do anything during the transition. Assuming their carrier participates in Healthy DC Plan, individuals will be enrolled with their current carrier. We are working with DCAS. IT development work is on track. We established an BHP Advisory Council, which has been meeting weekly. The Council is chaired by Linda Elam, a former DC Medicaid Director, vice-chaired by Claire McAndrews from HBX's Standing Advisory Board, and includes doctors, community health clinics, consumer advocates, community leaders, the faith-based community, carriers, and others. We established two carrier working groups -- a Legal and Policy Working Group and an IT Technical Working Group. Both Working Groups have been meeting weekly.

We get input on the outreach activities for people who need to know the changes are coming including physicians who care for Medicaid patients. Linda Wharton-Boyd received commitments from radio stations and is leading this work.

We are on track to receive approval on the BHP blueprint. HBX staff shared a draft with the BHP Advisory Council. After their input, HBX staff posted the DRAFT Blueprint for public comment on June 17. We are received a handful of comments this point. The deadline for public comment is July 16.

HEALTHCARE4CHILDCARE: There is no one on the waitlist. Since January 2023, HC4CC has helped 2,809 people and 233 facilities.

CCIIO MEETING: On May 29, HBX hosted an in-person meeting with CCIIO Director Peter Nelson and his senior staff members. This was an opportunity for Director Nelson to meet with our leadership team and to learn more about DC Health Link and our partnership with the MA Health Connector for Business (their Director joined to share the value of our partnership). This in-person meeting was very productive. We appreciate the visit tremendously.

HBX CARRIER ASSESSMENTS FOR FY26: The assessment rate for FY26 will be 0.80% same rate as for FY25. The notices are being sent this month and payments due in August like every year.

OUTREACH: We held additional in-person enrollment pop-up events at locations throughout the District, along with virtual one-touch enrollment events on Saturdays for formal federal employees.

WBJ DIVERSITY IN BUSINESS AWARDS: The Washington Business Journal honored Board Chair Diane Lewis with the Diversity in Business Award. It was incredible for our board chair to be honored in that way. Any questions?

Ms. Leighton: Before we were talking about BHP starting in October, now you are saying January 1.

Ms. Kofman: Yes. The change to Medicaid eligibility with start for childless adult and caregivers of 133% will be effective January 1, 2026. So that population will retain coverage through December 31. January 1 is now the date on which people can be covered under the new program.

October 1 is the date of our code freeze. We do not do any more IT work after that date. Eligible residents can determine eligibility starting November 1. The system will give eligibility determinations starting on November 1, but coverage will not start until January 1. Funding is based on assumptions that ePTC will end. Actuaries modeled the dollars on the worse case scenario. Federal government pays 95% of the value PTC.

Mr. Ku: What is the average 95% PTC amount?

Ms. Kofman: We expect the per member per month average is approximately \$662 expected from the federal government. The government will pay the approved amount and this will be a passthrough to the managed care organizations (MCO).

Ms. Leighton, are we paying them a flat average?

Ms. Kofman; No, we will pass through the actual entire amount of the federal contribution to MCOs. Based on modeling no premiums and no cost sharing for members, based on our commercial benefit structure not Medicaid benefits. People will no longer have non-emergency transportation and no dental.

Ms. Lewis: Any other questions?

Hearing none We are going to close. We have no future business.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Diane Lewis, Chair

This meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2025 at 5:30pm. If there is a change, the date and time it will be announced in accordance with the Open Meetings Act on our website hbx.dc.gov.