

**Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission
Meeting
September 5, 2024, 2P.M.**

Members Present

Caylee Noggle, Chair
Lisa Carnot
Pam Clayton
Kristy Klein Davis
Delvecchio Finley
Dr. Harry Heiman
Dr. Sid Moore
Dr. John Odom
Joseph Ross, Esq.

Members Absent

None

The Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission held its meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was recorded and can be found on the commission website at <https://dch.georgia.gov/comprehensive-health-coverage-commission> under Thursday, September 5, 2024 meeting information and titled "*Meeting Video Link*". Chair Caylee Noggle presided and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Shawn Walker, Director of Project Management for the Georgia Department of Community Health, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees to the Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission Meeting. Shawn indicated regular Commission meetings will be open to the public and recordings will be posted to the website. Also, Shawn informed attendees about the listserv the public can join to be informed of future meeting announcements.

Shawn took official roll of the Commission members in attendance and provided information on the format and agenda for the meeting.

Opening Remarks

Chair Caylee Noggle provided updates on the Commission's work, including ongoing efforts to bring on a consultant which was approved by the Georgia General Assembly.

Noggle reminded the Commission is required to submit semi-annual reports for the next two years. The initial report from the Commission is due on December 1, 2024. Next tentative virtual meeting date is October 24, 2024, and another at the end of November or December, possibly in person.

Speaker Presentation

Georgia Pathways to Coverage: Grant Thomas, *Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community Health*

Grant Thomas provided an overview of Georgia Pathways. The presentation included the following points:

- Program History
- Historical Uninsured Population Overview
- 2022 Uninsured Data Overview
- 2024 Marketplace Population Overview
- Georgia Pathways Overview and Timeline

Grant gave a history of Georgia Pathways to Coverage, initiated from Georgia's Patients First Act of 2019, allowing Georgia to submit to and eventually become approved for a section 1115 waiver by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. He reminded the Commission that Georgia Access was also an instrumental part of the Patients First Act, for which Georgia submitted and was approved for a section 1332 innovation waiver to the respective US Departments of Health and Human Services and Treasury. Georgia Access established a reinsurance program and a state-based exchange which is going live November 1, 2024.

Grant expounded on Georgia Pathways as an option for individuals aged 19-64 to become eligible for Medicaid having household income up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, who meet certain qualifying activities requirements, and are not eligible for traditional Medicaid. He also explained how Georgia Access provides access to coverage for individuals with household income above 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, who do not qualify for Medicaid, are not covered through their employer, and how Georgia Access works in conjunction with Georgia Pathways.

Grant discussed the perspective and levers used to ensure that Medicaid, Georgia Pathways and Access provide coverage and access to health care to individuals. He mentioned the positive development of enhanced subsidies and the reinsurance program in Georgia. Later he addressed the timeline and plans for the Pathways waiver, mentioning the need for public comment during the renewal process.

The full presentation can be found at: <https://dch.georgia.gov/comprehensive-health-coverage-commission> under Thursday, September 5, 2024 meeting information and titled "*Presentation*".

Closing Remarks:

Chair Noggle closed with the need for the Commission to prioritize and organize its work to determine how best to move forward, as well as the potential for additional public input and insights. She reminded the Commission of its main tasks:

- Opportunities related to reimbursement and funding for Georgia healthcare providers, including premium assistance programs
- Opportunities related to quality improvement of healthcare for Georgia's low-income and uninsured populations
- Opportunities to enhance service delivery and coordination of healthcare among and across state agencies

Adjournment:

Chair Noggle thanked the Commission for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.