



Department of Health

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Posted: May 31st, 2022

Minutes
Rhode Island All Payer Claims Database
Data Release Review Board
Monday, March 22, 2022
9:00 –10:00am
Location: Rhode Island Department of
Health, Room 401

Public Line Call-in: 1 929 436 2866; Participant Code: 689 016 7326 Password: 123

Primary Meeting Objective:

- Review APCD Data Release Project Management Transition
- Review and Approve Boston Federal Reserve Paper
- Discuss Updates to Application Template and Procedures

Applications are posted for public comment at: <http://www.health.ri.gov/data/healthfactsri/>

Members In Attendance:

Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair
Kenny Alston, Co-Chair
Jon Fredrickson
Elizabeth McClaine
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Ira Wilson

Staff Present:

Brian Boates, FHC
Emma Rourke, FHC

Members Not In Attendance:

None

Others in Attendance:

Mary Burke, Boston Federal Reserve
Riley Sullivan, Boston Federal Reserve

1. Welcome and roll call

Brian Boates began the meeting by taking roll call at 9am ET. Mr. Boates thanked everyone for joining the meeting and introduced Board Co-Chair, Kyle Wohlrab. Dr. Wohlrab reviewed the agenda and let the group know that the primary objective of the meeting was to review and approve Boston Federal Reserve's latest paper, as well as reviewing the APCD Data Release project management transition and discussing updates to the Application Template and Procedures.

2. Presentation of the September Meeting Minutes

Dr. Wohlrab reviewed the February Meeting Minutes. Board Members noted that Data Security Subcommittee members had not yet received Freedman HealthCare's WISP document. Mr. Boates stated that Emma Rourke will make that adjustment and send the WISP document to the DSSC team.

Ira Wilson moved to approve the February minutes, and Jon Fredrickson seconded it. The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Record of Vote:

In Favor:

Kenny Alston
Kyle Wohlrab
Jon Fredrickson
Elizabeth McClaine
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Ira Wilson

Not in Favor:

None

Absent:

None

3. Presentation of the Boston Federal Reserve Paper

Dr. Wohlrab opened the discussion of Boston Federal Reserve's paper and gave the floor to Dr. Mary Burke. Dr. Burke explained that the paper was driven by the question of whether or not Medicaid Expansion or subsidies increased use of Substance Use Disorder treatment in Rhode Island.

Dr. Wohlrab asked if Dr. Burke and team were able to look at overdose death rates and whether those individuals had a decrease in treatments. Dr. Burke responded, stating that her team did not have access to death records, so they could not tell if an overdose was fatal. She added that they can see if treatment is increasing as overdoses go up. Dr. Wilson stated that the results in this paper are quite convincing, and it looks like the team looked at crowd-out rigorously. Dr. Burke responded, stating that she thinks their strategy of inferring crowd out may be incomplete and asked for any input on how her team could do more. Dr. Wilson responded, stating that he does not know how she could do better in this aspect.

Mr. Stuebe continued the discussion, stating that if the Boston Federal Reserve team could think of another data set to add value to the analysis, the DRRB would entertain approving them to link the data through the lockbox procedure. Mr. Boates added that EOHHS has Medicaid background and vital statistics data that could lend to this analysis. Dr. Burke stated that they may be interested in this data, as well as employment data.

Dr. Wohlrab asked how Dr. Burke how the team controlled for public services, such as billboards or signs on busses, increasing access to SUD treatment. Dr. Burke stated that the team would need to see whether those efforts would be in the same timeframe as the data. Dr. Wohlrab continued, asking whether Dr. Burke had any feedback for the APCD and whether any issues arose for cell suppression. Dr. Burke responded, stating that it would be nice to have data on overdose-caused deaths, as well as better zip codes and tracking of places of service for treatment. She also noted that they did have to redact some findings and some methadone trends look different due to the suppression.

There were no further questions from the Board.

4. Review transition of APCD Data Release Project Management duties

Mr. Boates stated that he will be transitioning off of his APCD Data Release project management duties over the next month and Emma Rourke would be taking over his position. Mr. Boates stated that he will still attend the next few months of Board meetings in an advisory role as Ms. Rourke becomes acclimated to the role. Mr. Boates and Ms. Rourke stated that priorities over the next few months will include filling board positions and updating applications.

5. Discuss updates to the Application template and procedures

Mr. Boates opened the conversation to propose updates to the Application template and procedures. Dr. Wohlrab asked how many projects are currently active. Mr. Boates responded, stating that there are currently 19 ongoing projects. Mr. Stuebe continued questioning, asking whether publications using RI APCD data are linked to the Secretary of State's website. Mr. Boates stated that there are currently no publications linked, but that he and Ms. Rourke will work on adding them.

Mr. McQuade asked if there were any new applications in the pipeline. Mr. Boates stated that there are not, and it is hard to say when there will be more. Dr. Wilson added that the price to use Rhode Island APCD data is very high, unless the requestor has special funding, which may prevent broader use. Mr. Boates responded, suggesting that, since it has been a number of years since pricing was discussed, it may be time to explore this area. He reiterated that it is the Board's intent for people to use this data.

Board members were asked to provide any feedback they had on the Application via email.

6. Public comment

Mr. Boates opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

7. Next Steps and Adjourn

Dr. Wohlrab noted that the next Data Release Review Board meeting is scheduled for April 19th at 9am and will be held in-person.

Dr. Wohlrab facilitated a vote to close the meeting. Mr. McQuade motioned to close the meeting, and Dr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

Record of Vote:

In Favor:

Kenny Alston
Kyle Wohlrab
Jon Fredrickson
Elizabeth McClaine
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Ira Wilson

Not in Favor:

None

Absent:

None