

Katie Hobbs
Governor

Barbara D. Richardson
Director

**Mental Health Parity Advisory Committee
Minutes**

November 14, 2024
12:00pm – 1:30pm

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Henagan called the meeting to order at approximately 12:06pm. Dr. Henagan delayed the meeting in waiting for quorum. Dr. Henagan completed roll call and the members that were present were:
 - Dr. Don Fowls, MD
 - Kerrie Steving
 - Kathy Busby
 - Vista Thompson
 - Nichole PorterDr. Henagan discussed that there are still 2 open vacancies on the committee and if anyone from the committee knows of anyone that may be interested or if anyone from the public is interested to please email Dr. Henagan.
- II. Media Update – Dr. Henagan discussed that there are no updates for media at this time.
- III. Program Updates – Dr. Henagan turned the meeting over to Joshua Stegemeyer representing ADHS and AHCCCS with updates for the Suicide Mortality Review Program and the AHCCCS/RBHA Crisis System. (slides are attached). Joshua and Dr. Henagan reported that Joshua is available via email for any further questions that may arise.
- IV. MHPAEA Updates – Dr. Henagan discussed that the Arizona MHPAEA report will be finalized and published before the end of the month. Dr. Henagan discussed the common macro trends in the report:
 - ❖ Lumping together multiple NQTLs into one analysis, when each NQTL analysis needs to be separate (Ex. Prior Authorization and Concurrent Review)
 - ❖ Definition Clarity (Ex. Not clear on how factors are defined or when they might be triggered. For example, when does the “complexity of the condition” reach the level of complexity that would necessitate concurrent review?)
 - ❖ Not showing the analysis
 - ❖ Combining analyses (Ex. Prior Authorization, Concurrent Review and Retrospective Review).

Dr. Henagan also highlighted applicable dates from the Federal Final Rules Fact sheet (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-activities/resource-center/fact-sheets/final-rules-under-the-mental-health-parity-and-addiction-equity-act-mhpaea>)

- **Applicability Dates**

- ❖ The final rules generally apply to group health plans and group health insurance coverage on the first day of the first plan year beginning on or after **January 1, 2025**.
- ❖ The meaningful benefits standard, the prohibition on discriminatory factors and evidentiary standards, the relevant data evaluation requirements, and the related requirements in the provisions for comparative analyses apply on the first day of the first plan year beginning on or after **January 1, 2026**.
- ❖ The final rules apply to health insurance issuers offering individual health insurance coverage for policy years beginning on or after **January 1, 2026**.
- ❖ Until the applicability date, plans and issuers are required to continue to comply with the existing requirements, including the CAA, 2021 amendments to MHPAEA.

- V. Optional Executive Session – (Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3), to confer with legal counsel concerning legal issues in connection with items referenced in this Notice and Agenda.) – Dr. Henagan discussed that there were no topics/concerns/issue that warranted a need for Executive Session this meeting.
- VI. Next Meeting – Dr. Henagan discussed that the tentative next meeting will be January 16, 2025 12:00pm – 1:30pm.
- VII. Adjourn – Dr. Henagan opened the floor for public comment. Dr. Henagan recognized that there were no comments from the public. Dr. Henagan adjourned the meeting 1:37pm