



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting
Open Session Minutes
October 16, 2024

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met in a hybrid format, from the Wheaton Headquarters Auditorium in Wheaton and virtually via videoconference. The meeting was broadcast by the Montgomery Planning Department.

PRESENT

Montgomery County Commissioners

Artie Harris, Chair
James Hedrick
Josh Linden (departed at 10:14 am)

Prince George's County Commissioners

Peter A. Shapiro, Vice Chair
Manuel Geraldo
A. Shuanise Washington

NOT PRESENT

Shawn Bartley
Mitra Padoeem

Dorothy Bailey
William Doerner

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF 10/16/2024 COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Chair Harris moved item 1b to Section 5, Item d. Due to quorum issues, he also asked for all voting items to be arranged to come at the front of the meeting.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the amended Agenda
Seconded by Commissioner Hedrick
6 approved the items

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approval of Commission Minutes – Open Session 9/18/24

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the 9/18/24 minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Hedrick
5 approved the item
1 abstention (Washington)
4 absent

ITEM 5 ACTION/PRESENTATION ITEMS (voting items taken out of order)

d) Resolution 24-21 Appointment of William Spencer as Acting Executive Director of the M-NCPPC (moved from Item 1b) (Harris)

Chair Harris thanked former Executive Director Asuntha Chiang-Smith for her 5 years of service to the agency before her resignation at the end of September, and thanked Acting Executive Director William Spencer for his service over the past several months and requested a vote to approve a formal appointment.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt Resolution 24-21
Seconded by Commissioner Hedrick
6 approved the item

b) Budget Transfer Request (Charles)

Corporate Budget Director Charles requested Commission approval to proceed with the annual transfer of non-departmental salary markers to the specific departments and units, totaling \$12.574M. She summarized the breakdown of the transfers by county. The transfer also includes \$275,000 to cover unanticipated increases in compensation related to approved legal settlements.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Washington to approve the 9/18/24 minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Geraldo
6 approved the item

ITEM 3

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- b) National Pregnancy and Infancy Loss Awareness Month
- c) National AIDS Awareness Month
- d) Hiring People with Disabilities Month
- e) National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- f) Italian American, German American and Polish American Heritage Month

Chair Harris noted the October M-NCPPC newsletter, containing very well-written and informative information on both counties, showcasing the agency's one-Commission breadth. He thanked the communications staff throughout the agency on the newsletter. He also noted the upcoming retirement of Employees' Retirement System Executive Director Andrea Rose after 34 years of service to the ERS. Current ERS Deputy Director Jaclyn Harris will be the ERS Administrator starting November 1, 2024.

ITEM 4

COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- a) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2024 (for information only)
- b) Audit Committee Activity Report (for Information Only)

ITEM 5

ACTION/PRESENTATION ITEMS (resumed, non-voting items only)

a) Inspector General Annual Report (Kenney)

M-NCPPC Inspector General Kenney presented highlights of her report, as included in the packet. She added her appreciation for the Commissioners and Public Members on the Audit Committee who bring a wealth of knowledge to the Committee and whose support has been invaluable each year. She then provided additional detail on major audits and concerns from the report.

Chair Harris thanked Inspector General Kenney, Deputy Inspector General Ogunduyile and the Audit Committee adding he appreciated their work. Vice-Chair Shapiro agreed, adding the work the IG's Office does is critical to the health of the agency and appreciated the audit staff's discretion and diligence, and for providing a management advisory role to help senior staff do their jobs better.

c) GLP-1 Prescription Approval Process (Allen/McDonald)

Corporate Human Resources Director Allen introduced Benefits Manager Jennifer McDonald and Benefits Specialist Cynthia Henderson. He provided background on the item, which was first presented during the September Commission meeting, and was asked to return in October to present additional information and options on the approval process for these medications.

Ms. Henderson presented information from the packet discussing GLP-1 medications, their utilization, and cost. Starting on 10/1/24, the M-NCPPC will be using Caremark's Smart Edit and Utilization Management plan to place certain conditions on being prescribed these drugs specifically for weight loss. If there is history of diabetes or pre-diabetes in the past 2 years, the prescription will be automatically approved. If the prescription is specifically for weight loss, the member must have pre-authorization from their physician and meet other criteria to ensure these drugs are clinically appropriate.

Commissioner Hedrick was strongly opposed to the policy and asked for further discussion to consider rolling back the policy. He said there shouldn't be any barriers for accessing diabetic medications, noting records aren't always accessible when switching areas or doctors. A delay of 1-2 months in dispensing critical medication while waiting for approval or pre-authorization can be dangerous. Commissioner Harris asked how these new requirements were decided upon. Corporate HR Director Allen said it was recommended by both Caremark and the M-NCPPC's benefits consultant. Ms. McDonald added there is precedent, as there are other medications under the agency's plan that require prior authorization. It is a measure to ensure these drugs are prescribed accurately.

Chair Harris asked if the Benefits team could either come back at a future meeting or via memo to describe the process, discuss similar limits on other drugs, and address Commissioners' concerns. He also instructed Benefits staff to monitor this policy and suggested trying this plan for one year and then re-evaluate. Mr. Allen said the Benefits Office will also explore other pricing options for GLP-1 medications with their rates negotiations in the spring of 2025 for calendar 2026.

Commissioner Hedrick asked what other drugs were under prior authorization restriction, how the agency would measure the program's effectiveness in a year, and cautioned measuring by cost is a bad metric. Better perhaps to measure the number of member requests for appeals and track the health claims. He re-emphasized that the agency should not place barriers of access to these drugs.

Vice Chair Shapiro thanked the team for addressing this complicated issue and agreed with Commissioner Hedrick's remarks. Commissioner Washington also strongly agreed. Mr. Allen said Caremark provides aggregate claims information on a quarterly basis and said he could return every three months to provide data before the end of the year. Commissioner Washington asked for data to include populations served, particularly on diabetics.

Commissioner Geraldo agreed there should be no restriction for diabetics, but if the medication is purely for weight loss, there should be behavior modifications. He also suggested automatic authorization for weight loss, but with a higher copay.

ITEM 6 OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

- a) Quarterly Late Evaluation Report, August-September 2024. (For Information Only)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- b) 115 Trust/OPEB Annual Report (For Information Only)

General Counsel's Report

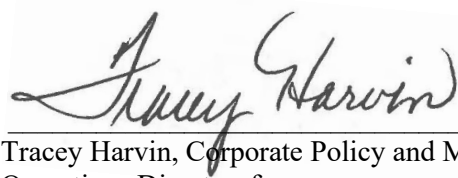
- c) Litigation Report (For information only)

Chair Harris closed the meeting by mentioning how much he and Vice Chair Shapiro enjoyed meeting CAS Staff at the Bi-County Fall Festival Fish Fry earlier in the week and how important it is for us to get together periodically and learn from and about each other.

Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.



James Adams, Senior Technical Writer



Tracey Harvin, Corporate Policy and Management
Operations Director, for
William Spencer, Acting Executive Director