



## Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026

*A quorum of the full Committee attended this in-person meeting. The Microsoft Teams link was made available for members of the public to attend virtually.*

### The following CHIPAC members were present at this in-person meeting:

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Freddy Mejia</b>        | The Commonwealth Institute                                          |
| • <b>Sarah Stanton</b>       | Joint Commission on Health Care                                     |
| • <b>Cindy deSa</b>          | Virginia Department of Health ( <i>substitute</i> )                 |
| • <b>Hanna Schweitzer</b>    | Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services |
| • <b>Irma Blackwell</b>      | Virginia Department of Social Services                              |
| • <b>Joanna Fowler</b>       | Virginia Health Care Foundation                                     |
| • <b>Kelly Cannon</b>        | Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association                        |
| • <b>Dr. Susan Brown</b>     | American Academy of Pediatrics (VA Chapter)                         |
| • <b>Victoria Richardson</b> | Virginia Poverty Law Center                                         |
| • <b>Martha Crosby</b>       | Virginia Community Healthcare Association                           |
| • <b>Laura Harker</b>        | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities                              |
| • <b>Tiffany Gordon</b>      | Virginia League of Social Services Executives                       |

### The following CHIPAC members attended virtually:

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|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Heidi Dix</b> | Virginia Association of Health Plans ( <i>Reason 1</i> ) |
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### The following CHIPAC members did not attend:

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <b>Kenda Sutton-El</b> | Birth in Color                   |
| • <b>Alexandra Javna</b> | Virginia Department of Education |

- I. **Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Freddy Mejia called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM upon reaching an in-person quorum. Mejia welcomed new DMAS Director, Steve Ford.
- II. **Director's Remarks:** On his fourth day as DMAS Director, Ford thanked the Committee for its work, and noted that in his previous 11-year tenure with DMAS, he had presented data to the CHIPAC. Ford noted that DMAS is working very hard to implement impending *H.R. 1* changes, and that he looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee and seeing how children's coverage has changed over the years. Mejia thanked Ford and presented him and Committee members with a CHIPAC mug.

### III. CHIPAC Business:

**A. Review/Approval of minutes from December 11, 2025 meeting.** These were posted publicly on Townhall and previously distributed to all CHIPAC members. Dr. Susan Brown introduced a motion to approve the minutes, which Kelly Cannon seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously at 1:13pm.

**B. Membership updates.** Kenda Sutton-El, Dr. Susan Brown, and Heidi Dix have agreed to renew their membership for an additional 2-year term. Emily Moore, CHIPAC Vice Chair, has left her role with Voices for Virginia's Children, and will no longer serve on CHIPAC. Voices for Virginia's Children is not a code-mandated member organization but a longstanding member organization, and it has put forth Dr. Liz Nigro for membership following Moore's departure. Kelly Cannon introduced the motion to approve Dr. Nigro's membership, which Sarah Stanton seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve.

Lauren Eggleton, Virginia Health Catalyst, is also a candidate for CHIPAC membership. Tiffany Gordon introduced a motion to approve Eggleton's membership, which Joanna Fowler seconded. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of approval.

**C. Officer Election.** Chair Mejia solicited nominations for candidates for Vice Chair. Hearing none, Mejia nominated Joanna Fowler, Virginia Health Care Foundation. No other nominations were made, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor at 1:19pm.

**IV. DMAS Dashboard, Member Disenrollment and Churn:** Danielle Nowell, Operations Lead in the DMAS Director's Office presented about the new December 2025 Disenrollment and Churn dashboard. The dashboard allows a user to filter by program (Fee-for-Service vs. Managed Care). It measures churn based on a six-month definition (e.g., if a member closed and re-enrolled in seven months, that would not be reflected as "churn" in this dashboard). Most re-enrolling members return to the same eligibility category.

Mejia asked if/how appeals are captured. Regardless of appeal, a closed member will be captured as a disenrollment, and if they re-enroll within six months they'd be captured within the churn population. DMAS is currently working on how to capture more reasons for closure given the new requirements of *H.R. 1*.

**V. H.R. 1 Medicaid Eligibility Impacts:** Sara Cariano, DMAS Director of Eligibility Policy, presented about how the agency is preparing for implementation, including necessitated changes to training, policies, and communication. Several imminent *H.R. 1* eligibility-focused changes apply exclusively to the Medicaid Expansion population. States are awaiting key CMS implementation guidance but are required to begin preparing to comply before it is issued.

While most of the public attention thus far has gone toward *H.R. 1*'s work and community engagement requirement, additional changes are also noteworthy: Medicaid Expansion members will have their eligibility redetermined every 6 months instead of once a year. Certain lawfully-residing immigrant adults will no longer qualify

for Medicaid beginning October 1, 2026. States are required to check specific federal data sources to ensure that individuals are not simultaneously enrolled in multiple states, and that deceased members are removed timely from the rolls (Virginia already has a robust process to ensure that deceased people are disenrolled from Medicaid).

Virginia's key implementation goals of *H.R. 1* include ensuring that eligible Virginians maintain coverage and access to services, promoting efficiency and sustainability, and connecting those who require additional workforce-related supports to appropriate resources. DMAS will use learned lessons from the post-pandemic "Unwinding" to inform this work.

- VI. Virginia General Assembly Updates:** Will Frank, DMAS Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs, presented about the 2026 60-day (long) session. The GA is tasked with completing work on legislation and the Commonwealth's biennial budget before March 13. Two bills related to maternal health remain alive/have passed both chambers. Several budget measures involving children's coverage may remain in the final budget and will be closely monitored.

Governor Spanberger will review passed legislation and sign, amend or veto it. The GA will reconvene on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the veto session. Unless otherwise stated, the new bills and budget go into effect July 1, 2026.

- VII. Agenda for June 4, 2026 CHIPAC meeting (all virtual):** If available, the Committee would like updates on the final biennial budget, Virginia's Rural Health Transformation Project, updates on the 2024 Eligibility Study and recent cost report, and any available clarifying guidance from CMS on implementation of key pieces of *H.R. 1*.

Joanna Fowler offered that the Virginia Health Care Foundation's annual *Profile of Virginia's Uninsured* will be released by the June CHIPAC meeting and that a presentation may be available.

- VIII. Public Comment:** Chair Mejia opened the floor for public comment at 2:50. No public comment was made. The meeting adjourned at 2:52.