

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Agency for Health Care Administration  
Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel  
Date: December 7, 2023  
Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST  
Location: Online Webinar

**Members Present:** Frank Scholl, MD, Chair; John Blaine, MD; Redmond Burke, MD; Gul H. Dadlani, MD; Eric Eason, DO; Tom Forbes, MD; Joseph Forbess, MD; T-Y Hsia, MD; Jarrod Knudson, MD; Jorge McCormack, MD; Michael Puchalski, MD; Anthony Rossi, MD; Ruby Monica Sanford, APRN; Rajesh Shenoy, MD; and Micheal Shillingford, MD.

**Staff Present:** Jason Weida, Secretary of Health Care Administration, Kimberly Smoak, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Policy and Oversight; Brock Juarez, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health Care Policy and Oversight; Julia Smith, Senior Attorney; Jamie Bustos, Bureau Chief of the Florida Center for Health Information and Transparency; Patricia Vidal, Administrator; Amy Wheeler, Dana Watson and Jennifer Fell, Florida Center staff.

**Interested Parties:** Aleskia Fernandez; Jay Fricker; Curt Fudge; Juanita Hunter; Jacob Horner; Cora Merritt; Elizabeth Pedersen; Emily Reeves; Jason Rodriguez; Christina Samper; and Kim Streit.

**Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call:** Dr. Frank Scholl, Chair, introduced himself, welcomed guest and panelist and called the Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel (PCTAP or Panel) meeting to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Dr. Scholl gave an overview of the meeting agenda and began by introducing AHCA Secretary Jason Weida.

**Secretary Update:** Secretary Jason Weida put forward an insightful proposal, suggesting a presentation format for site visits, that received widespread support among the panel members. Suggestions were made to incorporate visual aids and interactive elements. Dr. Scholl requested scheduling a meeting early in the coming year to discuss the format of presentations for site visits, allowing ample time for historical input. Action items were identified, including assigning responsibilities for drafting the plan and coordinating with AHCA staff. The intent is to facilitate ongoing collaboration and decision-making, fostering a proactive approach to pediatric cardiac care improvements.

**PCTAP Legal Update:** Dr. Scholl turned the meeting over to Jamie Bustos, who updated the Panel on the legal update for non-voting participants. Legal updates by Mr. Bustos and Senior Attorney, Julia Smith, highlight the need for proper procedures in addressing ex officio status and voting authority. As part of the discussion, it was acknowledged that the statute doesn't explicitly outline certain considerations, leading to an ongoing process of clarification. Ms. Smith provided insight into addressing public comments during meetings, suggesting a more interactive approach for timely input. The panel recognized the need to involve stakeholders actively, ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making processes.

**Agency Updates:** Dr. Scholl turned the meeting over to Kim Smoak, who introduced herself and provided the Panel with updates on Agency activities. Deputy Secretary Smoak emphasized the stability within the leadership team, citing Secretary Jason Weida's year-long tenure, and introduced Chief of Staff Stefan Grow, a pivotal addition to the leadership structure. The agency showcased its proactive engagement in legislative activities during Committee Weeks, shedding light on budget impacts, particularly from the Governor's budget presentations.

Dr. Scholl turned the meeting over to Mr. Bustos, who updated the Panel on the receipt of \$67,733 in recurring funds. This financial allocation covers the STS data refresh agreement with Florida Health Finder, and the hiring of Carson Merlo, a part-time OPS employee, who will play a key role in advancing PCTAP activities within the agency. Mr. Bustos elaborated on the STS data refresh agreement, underscoring that we are currently awaiting the finalization of the agreement language. Once this step is complete, the data will be made available for public access. This data refresh will provide comprehensive insights, covering data up to the end of 2023 and extending it back four years.

**Negotiated Rule Making Process:** Dr. Scholl asked about the progress in the negotiated rulemaking process, prompting an update from Kim Smoak. Deputy Secretary Smoak reported that the pediatric cardiac care rule is currently in queue, emphasizing the transparency of the process, where every development is public.

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**Meeting Summary & Next Steps:** Dr. Scholl expressed gratitude to all members for their active participation in the meeting. He summarized critical discussions, reporting on the proposed site visit format, agency updates, legal considerations, and plans for future meetings. Key highlights included Secretary Jason Weida's emphasis on proactive engagement, Deputy Secretary Kim Smoak's detailed agency updates, and the announcement of a dedicated OPS employee, Carson Merlo, reinforcing the commitment to PCTAP activities. The meeting's forward-looking approach encompassed finalizing the STS data refresh agreement, navigating legal complexities regarding non-voting participants, and planning additional meetings in 2024.

#### **Call to Adjourn**

Dr. Scholl, Chair, made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Panel Members provide AHCA staff with updated assistant email addresses.
2. AHCA Staff to provide suggested times for 2024 PCTAP meetings.
3. Panel Members provide agenda items 7 days prior to PCTAP meeting.