



Palliative Care Benefit Work Group

Meeting #1

July 11, 2024



OFFICE of the
**INSURANCE
COMMISSIONER**
WASHINGTON STATE

Today's Agenda

Time	Item	Who
2:00-2:10	Welcome	Nico Janssen, Senior Policy Analyst – Health Jane Beyer, Senior Policy Advisor – Health
2:10-2:25	Work group member introductions	Work group members
2:25-2:35	Review SSB 5936 and work plan	Nico Janssen, Senior Policy Analyst – Health Jane Beyer, Senior Policy Advisor – Health
2:35-2:45	Status of procurement	Nico Janssen, Senior Policy Analyst – Health Jane Beyer, Senior Policy Advisor – Health
2:45-3:00	Input on future meetings and next steps	Work group members
3:00-3:30	TBD – extra time if needed	

Meeting logistics

- Work group meetings will be recorded and posted on OIC's website and YouTube
- OIC has established a [webpage for this work group](#)
- Meetings are open to the public via registration links on the webpage
- Closed captioning is available on Zoom
- Please use raised hand function or chat to pose questions

Work Group Member Introductions

- Name, role, organization
- Background on palliative care issues
- What you hope the work group can accomplish

Review of SSB 5936

- [SSB 5936](#) (Chapter 166, Laws of 2024) directs the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC), in consultation with the Health Care Authority, to convene a work group “to design the parameters of a palliative care benefit and payment model for fully insured health plans.”
- The work group must coordinate with the ongoing work at the Health Care Authority related to designing a palliative care benefit for the state Medicaid program and the Employee and Retiree Benefits program
- The work group must hold its first meeting by the end of July 2024
- The work group must submit a report to the Legislature detailing its work and any recommendations, including any legislation, by November 1, 2025

Review of SSB 5936 (Cont.)

The work group must consider the following elements of a palliative care benefit:

- Clinical eligibility criteria;
- The services included in a palliative care benefit;
- Appropriate staffing, including staffing models and provider training;
- Evaluation criteria and reporting requirements; and
- Payment models.

Review of SSB 5936 (Cont.)

The work group shall consist of representatives from these organizations:

1. Health Care Authority (HCA) (1 representative)
2. Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) (1 representative)
3. Department of Health (DOH) (1 representative)
4. Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) (1 representative)
5. Washington State Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (WSHPCO) (1 representative) plus 4 clinician/provider representatives selected by WSHPCO
6. Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) (1 representative)
7. Home Care Association of Washington (HCAW) (1 representative)
8. Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) (1 representative)
9. Association of Washington Health Care Plans (AWHP) (1 representative) plus 2 plan representatives (commercial health carrier and Medicaid MCO) selected by AWHP
10. Washington Health Alliance (1 representative)

Review of SSB 5936 (Cont.)

SSB 5936 defines “palliative care” as –

“expert assessment and management of a patient's symptoms, including coordination of care, attending to the physical, functional, psychological, practical, and spiritual consequences of serious illness, and assessment and support of caregiver needs. Palliative care is a person- and family-centered approach to care, providing people living with serious illness relief from the symptoms and stress of an illness, and can be delivered alongside life-prolonging or curative care.”

Review of SSB 5936 (Cont.)

- The Legislature appropriated \$228,000 to OIC to carry out SSB 5936 (budget proviso in Sec. 142(22) of [ESSB 5950](#), Chapter 376, Laws of 2024)
- OIC may contract for actuarial analysis

Review of Work Plan

Major Dates and Steps in OIC's Work Plan

- Request for proposals (in progress)
- Contract for actuarial analysis (October 2024)
- Work group meetings (periodic)
- Draft report – review and comment by OIC and work group members (September/October 2025)
- Final report to Legislature (November 1, 2025)

Review of Work Plan (Cont.)

Resource library of previous studies and information

1. Health Care Authority and Oregon Health Sciences University: [*Washington State Palliative Care Reimbursement Summary Report*](#) (March 2023)
2. Department of Health: [*Palliative Care Roadmap*](#) (July 2020)
3. Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative: [*Palliative Care*](#) (2019)
4. [Washington State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) (WSHPCO)
5. [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) (NHPCO)
6. National Academy for State Health Policy: [Palliative Care Resource Center](#) & [Paying for Palliative Care](#)

Procurement for actuarial analysis

- OIC intends to contract for actuarial analysis and preparation of report
- OIC has shared a draft scope and objectives document with work group members
- Coordination between OIC and HCA
- Contractor to present updates to work group

Work group member input

- Future meetings
- Presentations
- Reports or information to review

OIC Contact Information

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