Children's Health Insurance Program
Advisory Committee of Virginia

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 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.

The following CHIPAC members were present at this meeting:

- **Jennifer Macdonald** Virginia Department of Health
- **Alexandra Javna** Virginia Department of Education
- **Irma Blackwell** Virginia Department of Social Services
- **Joanna Fowler** Virginia Health Care Foundation
- **Kelly Cannon** Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
- **Heidi Dix** Virginia Association of Health Plans
- **Dr. Susan Brown** American Academy of Pediatrics (VA Chapter)
- **Lauren Eggleton** Virginia Health Catalyst

The following CHIPAC members attended virtually:

- **Tiffany Gordon** Virginia League of Social Services Executives (*Reason 3*)

The following CHIPAC members were not present:

- **Sarah Stanton** Joint Commission on Health Care
- **Laura Harker** Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- **Kenda Sutton-El** Birth in Color
- **Martha Crosby** Virginia Community Healthcare Association
- **Kari Savage** Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

I. **Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Joanna Fowler called the meeting to order at 1:02pm and reviewed the agenda. Fowler introduced Mariam Siddiqui, DMAS Senior Advisor to the Agency Head, who shared DMAS is developing a No-Wrong-Door approach to ensure call center and portal readiness for *H.R. 1* work requirements (including verifying exclusions and exceptions). The work requirement's Medical Frailty exclusion remains fraught with uncertainty pending the outcome of the 26-state lawsuit. DMAS welcomed a new Chief Deputy, Liz Dervan, and new Chief Financial Officer, Cat Pelletier.

II. **Highlights from Virginia's 2026-2028 Budget:** Pelletier gave an overview of several cost containment items in the 2026 Appropriations Act, along with other highlights of

Budget items that will impact children and families.

III. **CHIPAC Business**:

A. **Review/Approval of minutes from June 4, 2026 meeting**. Kelly Cannon introduced a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Heidi Dix. Members voted unanimously to approve.

B. **Membership updates**. Two candidates for membership submitted biographical sketches and completed candidate questionnaires: Eli Weinger (Voices for Virginia's Children) and Eleanor Sullivan (Virginia Poverty Law Center). While neither organization is a Code-mandated CHIPAC member organization, both have been represented for many years.

Heidi Dix introduced a motion to approve Eli Weinger's membership, which Dr. Susan Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Jennifer MacDonald introduced a motion to approve Eleanor Sullivan as a member, which was seconded by Heidi Dix, and also passed unanimously.

C. **2027 Full Committee Meeting dates.** The following dates were proposed:

- Thursday, March 2, 2027 (in-person)
- Thursday, June 3, 2027 (all-virtual)
- Thursday, September 9, 2027 (in-person)
- Thursday, December 9, 2027 (all-virtual)

Kelly Cannon introduced a motion to approve the meeting dates, which Dr. Susan Brown seconded. The dates were unanimously approved.

IV. **CHIPAC Member Orientation/Re-Orientation and Refresher on Children's Eligibility for Medicaid/FAMIS**: Emily Roller, DMAS Policy Division, presented the history and background of CHIPAC, member responsibilities, bylaws, and meeting cadence. Roller reminded the Committee that a substitute can be designated if a member can't attend.

Fowler gave an overview of Medicaid/FAMIS children's eligibility and coverage, and noted significant changes over the last five years, including expansion of prenatal coverage, removal of FAMIS co-pays, and extension of postpartum coverage to 12 months.

V. **Federal Policy Options to Increase Children's Coverage:** Associate Research Professor Anne Dwyer, Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, shared that the national uninsured rate for children is increasing, after two decades of progress. The uninsured rate for young children rose even more than for older children. Virginia also saw an increase in uninsured rate for children from 2022-2024. Nationally, 2.4 million fewer children are enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP since January 2025, and Virginia ranked in the top 5 states for the decline of children in Medicaid/CHIP (11.6% drop) since that time. Over and above these declines, implementation of *H.R. 1* will be significant, and Dwyer encouraged states to track and make public key data and metrics.

Virginia's income eligibility limits currently fall below the national median (255% of the Federal Poverty Level). It could follow other states in covering EPSDT in FAMIS, and/or could fully merge FAMIS into the Medicaid crossover group, thus streamlining program administration, enabling access to Medicaid drug rebates, opening up the Vaccines For Children program, and avoiding a funding cliff. There are other options to improve coverage such as adopting presumptive eligibility, leveraging CHIP HIS funds, and multi-year continuous eligibility.

VI. **Agenda for December 10, 2026 CHIPAC meeting.** Topics brought forward by the Committee included anticipated September changes to federal public charge rules; updates on school based health centers, school outreach, and other topics related to Medicaid in Schools; further discussion about topics addressed during Dwyer's presentation; and updates on specific DMAS initiatives (*H.R. 1* work requirement implementation and required annual post-award forum).

VII. **Public Comment**: Fowler opened the floor for public comment at 3:21pm. LeVar Bowers commented: "No formal comment, however, I did want to let you all know how incredibly talented those who represent and present in this forum continue to be. The work you do is truly impressive and informative. I would also like to get a copy of Anne's presentation and organization's information if feasible."

Suzanne Brixey commented: "Thank you for sharing Anne's presentation. I would love to learn more about the role of this committee in moving forward some of her recommendations."

The meeting adjourned at 3:23pm.