

Over-the-Counter Birth Control Collaborative

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 7, 2025
2:30 p.m.
Virtual

Members Attending:

Co-Chair Cynthia Baur, Consumer Health Information Hub	Matt Celentano, Funk & Bolton Law (represented by Allison Taylor and Philemon Kendzierski)
Co-Chair Aliyah Horton, Maryland Pharmacists Association	Sarah Parsons, Mountain Maryland Alliance for Reproductive Freedom
Neil McGarvey, Professional Pharmacy Group	Heather Cascone, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
Penny Jacobs, University of Maryland	Staff Attending:
Cailey Locklair, Maryland Retailers Alliance	Ariana Kelly, Executive Director
Joe Winn, Maryland MCO Association	Brett Jordan, Program Manager
Samantha Ritter, Maryland Dept of Health	Camille Fabiyi, Policy and Program Assistant
Christina Kuminski, Maryland Dept of Budget and Management	Genesis Franco, Management Associate
Becca Lane, Maryland Health Benefits Exchange	Taryn Graves, Graduate Research Assistant
Victoria Nichols, Ibis Reproductive Health	
Kelly Cleland, American Society for Emergency Contraception	Guests:
Jakeya Johnson, Reproductive Justice Maryland	Senator Shelly Hettleman
Krista Hein, Albertson's/Safeway	LaShaune Stitt, Commission for Women Chair
Philemon Kendzierski, Funk & Bolton Law	Christine Lee, Commissioner, Commission for Women
Allison Taylor, Kaiser Permanente	Robyn Elliott, Public Policy Partners
Joy Baldwin, Maryland Dept of Health	Bria Goode, Ibis Reproductive Health
Christina Piccora, National Health Law Program	

Members Absent:

Staff Attending:

Guests:

Sabrina Bassett, Maryland Insurance Administration	
Delia Angulo Chen, Advocates for Youth	

2:30pm I. Call to OrderSenator Shelly Hettleman and Ariana Kelly, Executive Director, Maryland Commission for Women

A. Welcome remarks

Executive Director Ariana Kelly welcomed the Collaborative Members and set the stage for this meeting and future work. She discussed the Maryland Commission for Women and its history of advocacy, introduced the concept of over the counter contraception, and described the authorizing legislation that created the Collaborative. Executive Director Kelly emphasized the legislative mandate of the Collaborative to study and make recommendations to the General Assembly to fully implement insurance coverage of over the counter contraception.

Senator Shelly Hettleman later joined the call to briefly congratulate and welcome the Collaborative, expressing her excitement for the work the Collaborative will accomplish.

B. Collaborative Logistics and Housekeeping

Program Manager Brett Jordan discussed the purpose of Collaborative meetings and the two reports that the Collaborative will submit to the General Assembly. Members will meet to hear from experts and discuss and finalize recommendations. The reports will offer context and recommendations to the General Assembly.

2:41pm II. Introductions.....Brett Jordan, Maryland Commission for Women

Collaborative members introduced themselves and their organizations.

2:49pm III. Chair nomination and approval.....Brett Jordan

Brett Jordan announced that Cynthia Baur and Aliyah Horton will be co-chairing the Collaborative. The co-chairs expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to lead the Collaborative and their hopes for strong collaboration.

2:50pm IV. Mindfulness ExerciseAliyah Horton and Cynthia Baur, Co-Chairs

A. What does full OTC contraceptive access look like in your world? How does it impact Marylanders?

Collaborative members and guests thoughtfully answered these questions in the meeting chat box. Priorities ranged from cost parity for commercial insurance, Medicaid, and the uninsured to ensuring providers and consumers are aware of OTC coverage.

2:54pm V. Overview of the Collaborative: Past, Present, FutureVictoria Nichols and Bria Goode, Ibis Reproductive Health, and Robyn Elliott, Public Policy Partners

Collaborative member Victoria Nichols and guests Bria Goode and Robyn Elliott presented to the Collaborative regarding the work and history of the Free the Pill Coalition; they also introduced potential areas of discussion regarding billing practices and Medicaid coverage of OPill. The Free the Pill presentation included the process by which a drug becomes approved for over-the-counter use, as well as different models of contraceptive access.

3:39pm VI. Upcoming report deadline.....Brett Jordan

A. Timeline

Brett Jordan shared the review timeline that will have the Collaborative's interim report submitted by December 31, 2025.

B. Opportunity for member review

Collaborative members will have the opportunity to review sections of the interim report between December 8th and December 15th.

3:43pm VII. Next Steps.....Co-Chairs

Collaborative co-chairs will schedule the next meeting for November. Brett Jordan will share minutes and the Collaborative contact list with members. Minutes and a recording of the meeting will be available on the Commission for Women website.

3:48pm VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

Ariana Kelly, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women
October 10, 2025