January 28, 2026, DURB Meeting Summary

Issue	Action	Notes
Roll Call		Present: Dr. Swee, Dr. Gochfeld, Dr. Moynihan, Ms. Olson, Dr. Barberio, Dr. Marcus, Dr. Lind (ex-officio, Department of Human Services) and Dr. Sahu (ex-officio, Department of Health) Unable to attend: Mr. Schafer
Dr. Swee's pre-meeting announcement		Dr. Swee called the meeting to order by reading the following statement as required for the first annual meeting of the Board: In compliance with chapter 231 of the Public Law of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of the filings: • On January 5, 2026, it was published in the issue of the NJ Register at 58 N.J.R 172(s) • On December 11, 2025, it was posted on the DHS/DMAHS website • On December 30, 2025, it was published either online or print in the following newspapers: the Atlantic City Press, the Bergen Record, the Trenton Times, the Star Ledger, and the Courier-Post • On January 6, 2026, it was emailed to the DMAHS email list including the local Medical Assistance Customer Centers, County Social Service Agencies and Statehouse Press Office, where the notice is to be posted in an area accessible to both employees and the general public Dr. Swee also stated an overview of the DURB's responsibilities and duties.
Review of Minutes	Approved	Minutes from October 22, 2025, meeting was reviewed and approved by the Board. The approved meeting summary is posted on the DURB website at: http://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/boards/durb/meeting/index.html
Secretary's Report		- The Commissioners approved the July 2025 DURB recommended protocols - The NJDURB State Fiscal Year 2025 NJDURB Annual Report is in review by the Commissioners

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		- The Dupixent® protocol, presented during the October 2025 meeting, was updated to include nasal laser therapy for the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis. The Dupixent® protocol with this update is under review by the Commissioners. - The 2026 NJDURB Meeting dates were announced o April 15, 2026; July 15, 2026; October 21, 2026 - There are no further updates on the Board's positions and replacements
Old Business		
(A) Utilization Trends of GLP-1/GIP Agonists and SGLT-2 Inhibitors	Continue to Monitor	The Board reviewed utilization reports for GLP-1/GIP agonists, and SGLT-2 inhibitors. Dr. Swee discussed the decrease in FFS SGLT-2 inhibitors utilization from 645 claims in 2025Q2 to 422 claims in 2025Q3 could potentially be attributed to FFS membership. Dr. Marcus requested a report be provided that can identify new utilizers of SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1/GIP agonists. Dr. Swee requested ongoing reports to monitor utilization of these therapeutic classes.
New Business		
(A) Proposed Protocol for Opzelura®	Recommended	The Board reviewed the proposed Opzelura® protocol for the treatment of atopic dermatitis and nonsegmental vitiligo. The Board recommended updating the following general initial criteria to state "The medication is prescribed by or in consultation with a specialist who has appropriate knowledge and experience." Dr. Swee stated the Board will update criteria in the future if new guidelines become available allowing for safe concomitant use of Opzelura® and Dupixent® for atopic dermatitis. The Board recommended approval of the protocol with the proposed update.
(B) Proposed Addendum to Protocol for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Products	Recommended	The Board reviewed a proposed addendum to the protocol for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy products. Ms. Olson recommended the following criteria for Elevidys® be updated to "A current, active infection or infection within the previous 4 weeks." The Board recommended approval of the protocol with the proposed update.

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(C) Proposed Addendum to Protocol for Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin Kexin Type 9 (PCSK9) Modifiers	Recommended	The Board reviewed a proposed addendum to the protocol for proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9 (PCSK9) modifiers. The protocol was updated to include an additional FDA approved indication for use in patients at an increased risk of developing a major cardiovascular event. Two speakers, Jeffrey Baldwin and Dawn Howard-Mistry representatives from Amgen provided information on Repatha® and proposed to eliminate the ezetimibe trial criteria from the protocol. Dr. Angel Lazo, spoke in support to remove the ezetimibe criteria as well. Pinali Agrawal stated the protocol would allow for exceptions to not require ezetimibe trial on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Marcus stated he would like to see the vascular data the Amgen speakers referred to and would move to accept the protocol as presented but review it again at a later meeting after having reviewed the materials. Dr. Barberio similarly requested more information referred to by Amgen. Dr. Swee stated the Board will review additional information provided by Amgen and if needed revisit the protocol with amendments. The Board recommended approval of the protocol and requested additional information from Amgen for review.
Informational Highlights/Reports		
1. Fee-for-Service/MCO Prior Authorization Report	Continue to monitor	The Board reviewed the 3rd Quarter 2025 prior authorization (PA) denial report for FFS and MCOs. Aetna identified and corrected an issue based on Dr. Swee highlighting their high denial rate on the 2nd Quarter 2025 PA denial report compared to the other MCOs in the ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/AntiObesity/Anorexiants category. Dr. Swee stated denial rates in the 3rd Quarter 2025 PA report for the ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/AntiObesity/Anorexiants category is high in other MCOs as well. He requested follow-up with the MCOs to obtain additional information to address the denial rates. Pinali Agrawal stated the State will follow up with the MCOs and provide the information to the Board.
2. Summary of DURB Actions/Recommendations		The Board reviewed a summary of their actions from previous meetings (July 2024 through October 2025). Dr. Swee expressed his appreciation to the Department for obtaining approvals for all the Board approved protocols.

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<tr><th>Issue</th><th>Action</th><th>Notes</th></tr>
<tr><td>3. DHS/DHSS/MCO Programs Top Drugs Report</td><td></td><td>Top drugs report for November 2025 (FFS) and October 2025 (MCOs) was provided for review.
Drug expenditures during the reporting period are noted below:

<table>
<tr><th>Plan</th><th>Month Reported</th><th>Top Drugs</th><th>Total</th></tr>
<tr><td>FFS</td><td>November 2025</td><td>$ 2,424,950*</td><td>$ 2,681,932*</td></tr>
<tr><td>MCOs</td><td>October 2025</td><td>$ 118,719,517</td><td>$171,477,482</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">* Less PAAD, ADDP and Sr. Gold</td></tr>
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<tr><td>4. Medication Information</td><td></td><td>Medical information was provided with links for further reading on the topics below:
1. WHO issues global guideline on the use of GLP-1 medicines in treating obesity
2. One Dose versus Three Doses of Benzathine Penicillin G in Early Syphllis
3. American Association of Clinical Endocrinology Consensus Statement: Algorithm for the Evaluation and Treatment of Adults with Obesity/Adiposity-Based Chronic Disease – 2025 Update
4. Use of Risk Assessment to Guide Decision-Making for Blood Pressure Management in the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: A Scientific Statement from The American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology
5. RSV Vaccine Effectiveness Against Hospitalization Among US Adults Aged 60 Years or Older During 2 Seasons
6. HHS Advances Women’s Health, Removes Misleading FDA Warnings on Hormone Replacement Therapy
7. FDA asks for removal of suicide warnings on GLP-1 drugs

Nikki Patel, a pharmacist with Novo Nordisk, reiterated that on 1/13/26, the FDA requested the removal of suicidal behavior and ideation from the labeling of GLP-1 drugs.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Follow-up items:</td><td></td><td>1. Provide utilization reports for GLP-1/GIP agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors.
2. Provide a breakdown of members new to GLP-1/GIP agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors
3. Provide utilization reports for Lyfgenia® and Casgevy®, as well as monitor if requests go beyond twelve months.</td></tr>
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		4. Provide explanation for high denial rate in the ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy/AntiObesity/Anorexiants category for all MCOs based on the 3rd Quarter 2025 PA report