

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

OBESITY TREATMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
December 17, 2025
12:00 P.M., SHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2025121005>

Members Present:

Senator David Gowan, Co-Chair
Senator Sally Ann Gonzales
Julie Hoffman
Dr. Douglas Maready
Amy McCallister

Representative Julie Willoughby, Co-Chair
Representative Patricia Contreras
Dr. Kiran Raman
Cindy Komar
Emily Moree

Members Excused:

Dr. Christine Lovato

Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst
Samuel Rosenberg, Senate Assistant Research Analyst
Ahjahna Graham, House Senior Research Analyst
Tasja McMaster, House Assistant Research Analyst

Co-Chair Willoughby called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and attendance was taken.

PRESENTATION FROM DR. YAMINIKRISHNA SABESAN, ASSOCIATE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, MERCY CARE

Dr. Yaminikrishna Sabesan, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Care, distributed and explained a PowerPoint Presentation entitled "Obesity Study Committee December 17, 2025" (Attachment A).

PRESENTATIONS ON GLP-1 COVERAGE

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Steve Berg, Legislative Specialist, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, distributed and explained a handout entitled "AHCCCS GLP-1 Data for Obesity Treatment Study Committee – 12/17/25" (Attachment B) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Dr. Raman answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Berg answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Dr. Raman answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Berg answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Berg answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Dr. Raman answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Arizona Department of Administration

Paul Shannon, Benefits Director, Arizona Department of Administration, distributed and explained a handout entitled "Questions and Answers" (Attachment C) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

REVIEW OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Senator Gowan reviewed the draft recommendations of the Committee.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee offered comments.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Senator Willoughby moved that the Committee adopt the recommendations as distributed with the revisions as noted:

RECOMMENDATION #1 – RECOGNIZE OBESITY AS A CHRONIC DISEASE

The Legislature and state agencies should consider policies which:

- **Officially recognize obesity as a chronic disease.**
- **Treat obesity as a chronic illness, with necessary treatment that is lifelong as needed, rather than episodically, like the treatment of any other chronic disease.**
- **Looks at obesity treatment as part of a chronic care model.**

RECOMMENDATION #2 – OBESITY PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Legislature should:

- **Establish an advisory council which will analyze historical data, estimate potential cost-savings from covering preventative care, evaluate and recommend public policy and funding strategies, identify system gaps, and produce a report providing guidance and recommendations to educate the public, the Legislature and other government agencies and departments, as appropriate.**

RECOMMENDATION #3 – CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT BY STATE AGENCIES

Relevant state agencies should:

- **Continue and expand efforts to promote physical activity, nutrition education, and support obesity treatment approaches that focus on treating the whole individual.**
- **Consider creating or strengthening internal teams focused on addressing and preventing obesity and related chronic diseases.**

The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackson Cooper
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115.
Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)