

SSB 5351 Collaborative Workgroup Meeting
January 9, 2026 | Zoom | 10am-1pm

Attendance: Carol Carbone, Lisa Egbert, Jim Freeburg, Kim Hudak, Jina Jilek, Bracken Killpack, Carolyn Logue, Jenna McKenzie, Sean Pickard, John Quirk, and Matt Sinnott

Ruckelshaus Center Staff: Amanda Murphy, Senior Facilitator; Chris Page, Senior Facilitator; and Gaby Diamond, Project Specialist

OIC Staff: Sydney Rogalla

Agenda Items: Setting expectations, discussing the body of work, confirming data needs for Dental Loss Ratio (DLR), and relative payment based on provider network status

Setting expectations: The workgroup will develop options and draft recommendations on behalf of the full SSB 5351 Collaborative. The workgroup will discuss, weigh in on, build on, and consider ideas to revise and present to the full group for further direction and/or feedback. The workgroup does not make decisions for the full Collaborative but does follow its ground rules and operating procedures. Meeting summaries will be less detailed and shorter than the Collaborative's meeting summaries.

Workgroup's body of work: DLR—first, confirm what data is needed to make informed recommendations. Second issue: relative payment based on provider network status.

DLR and confirming data needs: Members discussed the information needs and Sydney Rogalla (OIC) gave an update on the four states that have established a DLR. All states wished they had more data before making any decisions. Bracken Killpack talked about a DLR presentation by the American Dental Association (ADA) Health Policy Institute that included reporting requirements from other states. He suggested this presentation would be helpful for the full group to hear at the January 30th Collaborative meeting. The workgroup members agreed. *NOTE: The Facilitation Team asked the ADA contact to present on DLR at the January 30th meeting; they will present on January 30th.*

Workgroup members discussed how to move forward with developing recommendations on DLR. Members generally agreed that it may be premature to develop DLR policy recommendations, given the lack of DLR data and information available to guide conversations on what policy or policies might work best for patients and all the parties. Members agreed to bring this issue forward to the full Collaborative for discussion at its January 30th meeting.

Relative payment based on provider network status: Workgroup members held a wide-ranging discussion based on the draft document "Relative Payment Issues Grouped"

created by the Facilitation Team to condense the ideas and themes the Collaborative discussed at its last meeting. The workgroup will continue this conversation at its next meeting. Common themes that emerged included transparency, affordability and viability, and accessibility/opportunity.

Action Items/Takeaways:

- The Facilitation Team will reach out to the ADA contact to try and schedule their DLR presentation for the January 30th meeting. [Complete.]
- The Facilitation Team will follow up with members representing insurance carriers to request information about what it costs to administer their dental plans.
- Dental providers will bring information to the next Workgroup meeting about what it costs to maintain a dental practice and how being in-network vs. out of network impacts these costs.
 - Bracken will share past WSDA relative payment proposals with the workgroup (some members were not a part of the previous discussions on these proposals that occurred during the 2025 Legislative session).
- The Workgroup will seek guidance from the full Collaborative at the January 30th meeting about how to proceed with discussions on DLR.
- All data and research articles members have shared with the facilitation team to date, including those shared during this meeting, will be posted on the SSB 5351 Collaborative webpage, located on the Ruckelshaus Center’s website. [Complete.]
 - **Meeting Schedule:** Every other Friday, 10am-12pm. Next meeting: February 6th. Agenda Item for 2/6/26: Continue discussing the possibility of an emerging recommendation on standardization of EOBs.

Links from the meeting:

- <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/unintended-consequences-aca-s-medical-loss-ratio-requirement>
- <https://www.fairhealthconsumer.org/dental/select-code>
- FAIR Health data in assessing state-by-state Medicaid Reimbursement:
https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/dental_care_in_medicaid_programs.pdf?rev=cd60718c93e945ecb37a3048b36acd2e&hash=F28A53B353992D4AEA0CF88E47DF016B
- https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/state_us_dental_economy_q32025.pdf?rev=3738

[b606aebe4a4b96a9fd922608a5d5&hash=315CC3F77B144853CBF99645451AA8B](https://www.washington.edu/online/learning/learning-styles/learning-styles-quiz/b606aebe4a4b96a9fd922608a5d5&hash=315CC3F77B144853CBF99645451AA8B)
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- SSB 5351 Collaborative Website: [SSB 5351 Collaborative | The William D. Ruckelshaus Center | Washington State University](#)