CT PAID LEAVE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Roll Call

- Board Members in Attendance: Eva Bermudez Zimmerman, Easha Canada, Adrienne Cochrane, Andrea Comer, Ellen McKitterick, Fran Pastore, David Salazar-Austin, Michael Soltis, Molly Weston Williamson, Holly Williams, Justin Zartman, Melissa Ziobron
- Board Members Absent: Sheila Hummel, Eleanor Michael, Tonishia Signore
- CT Paid Leave Staff Present: Matthew Bielawski, Erin Choquette, Michael Cisar, Amber Forrest, Madeline Granato, Alexa Greenberg, David Marcone, Stephanie Oliveras, Loc Pho, John Simonetti, Priscilla Torcello, Jessica Vargas

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Fran Pastore called the meeting to order at 9:01A.M. Clerical Assistant Stephanie Oliveras took attendance by roll call and confirmed the existence of a quorum. Ms. Pastore acknowledged the members of the public in attendance.

Review & Approve September 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Pastore asked the Board for a review of the September 10, 2026, meeting minutes. Molly Weston Williamson identified an error in the September 10, 2026, minutes and motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, Ellen McKitterick seconded that motion. There was a motion to adopt the revised minutes with the changes discussed. Andrea Comer and Melissa Ziobron abstained. All but Ms. Comer and Ms. Ziobron were in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Quarterly Claims Administration

Benefits Manager John Simonetti provided the Quarterly Claims Administration Update via PowerPoint presentation, noting that the year over year claim volume increased approximately 11.60%. Mr. Simonetti also provided information about benefits associated with intermittent leaves and preliminary data relating to benefit claims filed by school employees.

In response to questions from the Board members, CEO Erin Choquette explained the differences between FMLA and CT Paid Leave and provided clarification about intermittent leaves as well as how claims for pregnancy/childbirth differ from bonding.

Historical Review of Spending to Date

Controller Dave Marcone gave a Power Point presentation on the Authority's expenses, providing a detailed review of the Authority's expenses since program inception, identifying trends and cost-saving efforts. Board members expressed appreciation for the review and asked questions about specific categories of expenses.

Committee Reports

Policy & Personnel

David Salazar-Austin reported that the Committee did not meet in October due to the bimonthly meeting schedule. The next scheduled meeting is on November 3rd.

Outreach & Engagement

Chief Experience Officer Jessica Vargas reported that the Committee met in September and received an update on the Leave Management Conference as well as the Family Expo Event. The Committee did not meet in October due to the bimonthly meeting schedule. The next scheduled meeting is on November 19th.

Finance & Audit

Holly Williams reported that the Committee met in September and received the historical review of spending, which was presented today, along with the presentation of the regular financial reports. The next scheduled meeting is October 23rd.

Financial Reports

Mr. Marcone presented the budget review of spending to date for August 2026.

CEO Report

Ms. Choquette reminded the board about the details of the CT Paid Leave Family Fun Expo and thanked Chairperson Pastore for sharing information about the Expo on her social media. Ms. Choquette also shared with the Board links to the articles written by MDRC regarding the MDRC partnership with CT Paid Leave and advised the Board that the Bipartisan Policy Center will be holding focus groups with employers to learn about their experiences and perspectives relating to CT Paid Leave. Finally, Ms. Choquette stated that she and the staff will coordinate a CT Paid Leave 101 training for Board members and their invited guests as a special meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Ms. Pastore asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Comer motioned and Ms. Williams seconded the adjournment. All were in favor. None opposed. None abstained. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:31A.M.

Watch meeting recording at https://youtu.be/vozUpmfhbCs

Attachments

- Quarterly Claims Administration
- Historical Review of Spending to Date
- August Financials