

Key Staff

Sara Chalhagian, Executive Director, State of Nevada, Patient Protection
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Sara Chalhagian serves as Executive Director to Nevada's Patient Protection Commission (PPC) under an appointment by Governor Steve Sisolak since January 2020. The PPC was approved by Nevada's legislature in 2019 and is designed to provide a forum for health care stakeholders to work together on improving health care access and affordability in Nevada. She previously spent nearly a decade as a legislative and government affairs professional at both the state and local level representing a wide range of health care issues. From 2018 to 2019, Chalhagian worked as an associate with Ferrari Public Affairs. From 2014 to 2018, she served as a Legislative and Government Affairs Manager for The McMullen Strategic Group and for Porter Gordon Silver Communications. In the aforementioned roles, Chalhagian fostered and maintained relationships with legislators, regulatory personnel and committee staff, and she managed and oversaw the establishment of legislative strategies, policies, and plans.

Lezlie Mayville, Administrator
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Executive Order and/or Statute

State [legislation](#) created the Patient Protection Commission (PPC) in 2019. Pursuant to [NRS 439.916](#), the commission has broad scope of authority to 1) review the state's health care needs including specific focus on affordability and cost factors, and 2) develop policy options including purchasing strategies, data transparency, and use of claims data to inform policy. The commission voted in 2020 to initiate work to establish a cost growth target.

“As we have seen across the nation and especially in our state's ongoing battle with the pandemic, COVID-19 has not only devastated our economy, but it has turned gaps in coverage into chasms, especially for those who need it the most. My hope is that this program will help our state address growth in health care spending across all populations by facilitating a greater depth of experts working alongside our state with collective action from payers and stakeholders.”

Sara Chalhagian

Website



[Patient Protection Commission](#)

Additional Policy Initiatives

- During 2020, the PPC held [12 public meetings](#) inviting outside invited experts on issues related to the health care needs of residents of Nevada and the quality, accessibility and affordability of health care.
- The PPC consistently prioritizes review and examination of the cost of health care and the primary factors impacting those costs. On [August 31, 2021](#) the commission voted to request two pieces of legislation to address access and affordability of health care in Nevada. One of those [measures](#) aims to improve health care outcomes by mandating the creation of an all-payer claims database in the state.
- PCC is seeking to address high health care prices by finding solutions to increase merger review and oversight to help limit market consolidation. On July 20, 2020, the PPC held a discussion around this topic and the PPC executive director and the Office of the Attorney General are discussing the state's anticompetitive review process.