

https://www.statehousenews.com/news/healthcare/healthcare-recommendations-now-maybe-days-away-mahaniah-says/article_814c6cca-9916-4cd9-8f49-5f28900bbfc6.html

Healthcare recommendations now 'maybe days' away, Mahaniah says

Alison Kuznitz

Jun 29, 2026

The group of health care industry insiders Gov. Maura Healey launched in January to tackle escalating healthcare affordability woes could release recommendations in a matter of days, the state's top health official said.

The policy proposals will be unveiled "very, very soon," Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah told the News Service Monday morning.

"As in like maybe days, to maybe two weeks at the most," Mahaniah said. "They'll be announced, likely by the governor, so that's why I can't be breaking anything, but they're coming. And they're just the first set of recommendations, and we'll have recommendations ongoing between now and December."

The panel has kept its business under wraps for months, and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services has not shared meeting minutes or other materials with the News Service.

Work group member Matt Veno, who's also executive director of the Group Insurance Commission, said on June 18 the panel had "reached sort of a midpoint of the process" and would submit ideas to Healey "within the next few weeks." Veno, speaking during a public GIC board meeting, said the panel has an expectation that its work "will remain mostly confidential."

At a mid-January press conference, Healey had said she wanted to see "some actual changes and recommendations no later than June" and said she wasn't looking for a "protracted process." Health insurance premiums are skyrocketing, and Bay Staters are routinely forgoing care over cost concerns.

Scheduled formal legislative sessions are set to end in about a month, and lawmakers would need to rush through any more immediate healthcare policy changes in July in order to keep them alive for potential action later this year. The Senate this month passed primary care legislation (S 3141), which is now awaiting action in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mahaniah previously told the News Service the work group is "particularly interested in recommendations that can be put into law," as well as "things that don't need legislation because those are easier to do in a short period of time."

Alison Kuznitz