**Granite State PNHP**

**Agenda, April 22, 2015**

1. Review March minutes
2. Strategy for the next year
3. Tactics
   1. Speakers’ Bureau
      1. Content - 5min
      2. Soliciting venues
      3. Managing
      4. Powerpoints
   2. Membership
   3. Media
   4. Sponsors
4. Invite Nick Toumpas, Commissioner of NH Health and Human Services, to our next meeting?
5. Activities for Medicare’s 50th Anniversary
6. ?May meeting at the NHAFP?
7. Review of Action Items

Attending

John Swartz

Camilla Jones

Gary Sobelson

Don Kollisch

Ahmed Kutty

Rob Kiefner

Mark Patnaude

Richard McNamara

**Minutes**

1. Recent Ben Carson speech on April 6, 2015 and Ahmed’s answer
   1. Carson re-told his personal story.
   2. Promoted vouchers, funded by initial deposits at birth
   3. Privately to Ahmed and off-record, Dr. Carson said that he would support PRIVATE universal health care access for high-cost care; routine primary and secondary care should be paid with vouchers, self-pay, or HSA’s
   4. Ahmed had a number of good conversations after his talk
   5. Manchester Union-Leader had a story the next day; two TV stations (MUR and Fox25) and NHPR were there.
   6. Dick McNamara was impressed that much of Dr. Carson’s basis stems from his religious beliefs
2. Gary: have any religious groups come out in favor of Single-Payer? Mark: UU has done so
3. Mark: nationally, it seems that FINANCING is the issue; PNHP addresses solutions, not problems
4. Camilla: NH Health Commissioner Toumpas says that he could provide much better service if he had a unified Medicaid budget.
5. Ahmed and a group of Peterborough “Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare” members spoke with a staff person “Ann Warburton” for Senator Kelly Ayotte. Ahmed says that the SGR repeal is moving towards privatization of Medicare; e.g. one of the bill’s features is that Medi-Gap policies cannot be used to pay deductibles.
6. Gary: Steve Gorin, NH Social Work, is interested in being involved. He is an expert on Social Security
7. Don: Internship opportunities can likely be funded; we might get either a Med Student or a Dartmouth College student
   1. Tasks for an intern:
      1. Organize speakers bureau by linking a data-base of potential audiences with our list of speakers
      2. Outreach to other organizations interested in health reform
      3. Facilitate meetings of PNHP members with legislators interested in health reform
      4. Develop Calendar of events, including Presidential Primary events
      5. Write a “blast” every 2 weeks for the List-serv and – perhaps – others, about what is going on in NH regarding Single-Payer
      6. Help write the Study Commission Bill
8. Ahmed: an intern could work with Bob McGrath, Chair of Dept of Health Management and Policy, UNH, to develop financial analysis
9. Ahmed is going to learn from Vermont Rep Susan Hatch-Davis about financial analysis
10. Strategy for this year: aim for a Study Commission bill on Single Payer for next year, and a true Single-Payer bill for 2017
    1. What will it address
    2. Who will be on it
    3. When will it begin and when will it end?
    4. [There is a model that Gary developed]
    5. What is the argument for having a Study Commission?
       1. This keeps SP in the public eye
       2. This provides for more conversation at the legislature.
       3. Next year, Medicaid is going to be the major driver – will we cut 30,000 from the Medicaid list, or will NH commit $20million for the first year. [Gary: in the future, Medicaid recipients will get a subsidy to buy their insurance on the exchange]
       4. Perhaps ask John Hunt (Commerce Chair) what would be a good way to bring a study commission bill to the Commerce Committee. Dick: will ask Ed Butler. Perhaps have a meeting with McNamara and 2 PNHP members.
       5. McNamara perhaps ask Tyler Brannen (Insurance) what he thinks of a study commission
    6. Writing Group
       1. When should they start?
       2. Who should be the champion
11. Ahmed will ask Ida Hellender if other states have proposed Study Commissions on SP
12. Speakers Bureau
    1. Venues
       1. NH Democratic Party has a Friday “brown bag”; Richard to ask if they would like a talk on Single-Payer
       2. Plymouth Area Democrats (Camilla and John; facilitator: Suzanne)
       3. Could each of us find a venue?

Mark: Democrats usually take their “marching orders”, i.e. dumping on Republicans who dump on Obamacare. Can WE change the conversation to say “look, there is a group of people actually working on the core problem!”.

* + 1. Camilla: a Single Payer could work WITHIN the ACA to provide broader care
  1. Slide Sets
     1. Camilla’s. She will send around the latest version
     2. Cosy’s
     3. PNHP’s

1. Medicare’s 50th Anniversary, July 30.
   1. MARK: “Medicare…a good beginning”
   2. Rally at Concord
   3. Don: will contact Granite State Progress to see what they are planning
   4. Ahmed: will reach out to Public Citizen and Center for Medicare Rights
   5. Camilla: Cosy has banners for PNHP
   6. An idea from NYC: Medicare is as American as PIE (Protect, Improve, Expand)
2. Membership
   1. Don to write a blurb for the NHMS Newsletter, encouraging interest
3. Mark/John: engage NH Rebellion, the Granny D finance-reform group
4. Camilla: will invite Nick Toumpas to speak at our June meeting about how Medicaid care can be a part of a Single-Payer program
5. **Gary: hold the May PNHP meeting at the NHAFP meeting on Saturday, May 30, rather than Wed, May 27. We agreed to hold this meeting 4-5pm at the MOUNTAIN VIEW GRAND HOTEL**

Don: Ask PNHP if discounted memberships can be offered

Post Info on the list-serv

Gary: Will get details clarified with NHAFP