**NH-PNHP**

**Agenda/Minutes**

**February 24, 2021**

Attending:

Ken Dolkart

Jim Fieseher

Camilla Jones

Rob Kiefner

Don Kollisch

Ahmed Kutty

Nikki Ratnapala – 2nd year Geisel Student, co-leader of SNaHP

Cosy Santiago

1. Introductions
2. Minutes accepted as submitted
3. Town Meeting articles and City Council resolutions
	1. Towns we know are in action
		1. Rumney – Cosy
			1. Petition is accepted for March 11, virtual town meeting
			2. Cosy: Rumney is a “small” and “difficult” town. This is very stressful
			3. Jim Fieseher is going to help “lots of bullets to fire back”
			4. Ken: consider focusing on the savings to school and town budgets
		2. Andover – Kent
			1. Don: Kent is ready to go!
	2. Two cities considering City Council Resolutions
		1. Dover – Jim
			1. Resolution is written. NOT using the phrase “Medicare for All” to avoid politicizing the process
			2. Building coalition, hopefully Republicans as well as Democrats
				1. Rob: if your Republicans are “old-time” GOP, you have a chance, especially if they think it is their own idea! If they’re free-state Trumpists…no way!
			3. Hope to bring to City Council in May
			4. Plan to speak with Teachers’ Union in advance
		2. Keene – Ahmed
			1. Good progress with Jim Murphy, Carl DeMatteo (retired MD) and Heather Stockwell (Rights and Democracy)
			2. Resolution has been written, including the phrase “Improved Medicare for All”
			3. Keene spends $4-5 million; will be in the Resolution
			4. Anticipate collecting >200 signatures on-line; this will demonstrate support to the Councilors
			5. Identifying champions on the City Council; hopefully one of them will introduce it
			6. Public Citizen and RaD are supporting
			7. Teachers’, Firefighters’ and Police Unions may NOT support
		3. Ken: consider inviting the Press in Advance.
4. Nursing organizations in NH
	1. Jim: NH nursing groups are not focused on progressive health policy (as National Nurses United and California Nursing Association are)
5. National Scene
	1. Bills in Congress
		1. Medicare for All house bill (Rep. Jayapal) will be improved re-introduced in mid-March
	2. National politics
		1. Rob/Ahmed/Ken: Congressional progressives may be holding back with promoting MC4A until the COVID relief bill and $15 minimum wage pass
		2. Ken: the nominated new HHS Director is more supportive than any previous
		3. Ahmed: can vaccines that were developed with public funding – e.g. Moderna - be made available in a generic form at no charge?
		4. Ken: [Haven - the much-anticipated health venture from Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway, and JP Morgan - folded](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/04/business/haven-amazon-berkshire-hathaway-jpmorgan.html)
6. NH State affairs
	1. Possibility of a NH Medical Society Resolution – Don
		1. Haven’t heard back from Mike Padmore – was to be discussed at the NHMS Council
	2. Rights and Democracy update
		1. Not focusing this year on MC4A projects, but happy to help locally
		2. How much is spent in EVERY town for Health Insurance premiums?
			1. Ahmed: could the summer students help develop this spreadsheet?
			2. Ken: school districts cross town lines
			3. Camilla: the item should be HEALTH insurance, not “Insurance”
			4. Ahmed: it should be ONE total expense (“dollars spent on health care”)
			5. Cosy: this should be available from the annual Town Reports
			6. Ken: would someone from UNH Center for Health Policy be interest
			7. Nikki: a literature search might find this information, perhaps at the County level
				1. *Nikki: I may try to take a look at this*
			8. Can any of us take this on? Not at this time.
			9. *Don: I’ll speak with Heather Stockwell*
	3. Kent Street Coalition
		1. Rob: KSC is not interested, at this time, in pursuing MC4A
	4. Jim: the Governor’s budget may be pushing expenses down to Counties and Towns
7. Chapter Activities
	1. Survey results – 14 responses
		1. New topics
			1. Ahmed: allow licensure of drugs that were developed with public funds, e.g. Moderna COVID vaccine
			2. Ahmed: can we make progress by pushing Biden to lower Medicare age to 55 yrs
			3. Ken: other scandals in Pharmaceuticals – “ever-greening”
			4. *Don: I’ll share the results*
	2. Role of the List-serv
		1. Perhaps we can post more compiled information on the List-serv
		2. Camilla: do not **flood**, but be selective
		3. Ahmed: should Don be a filter? Don: No!
		4. Ken: perhaps post once/month, rather than once/week
		5. Ken: use the list-serv to notify members about how to register a “pro” or “con” opinion for NH bills
		6. *Don: let’s discuss this next month*
	3. NH Rotary list and spreadsheet – compiled by GSM Nikki Ratnapala
		1. Ahmed: when we did this with Libraries, there were push-back “this is partisan”. Would Rotaries push back, also?
		2. Ken: Rotaries might be interested in the Public Option
		3. *Don: let’s discuss this next month*
	4. Student internship, summer 2021
		1. Ken: there are 12 “highly-qualified” students, from around the country. (Indiana, Georgia, New York, Arkansas)
		2. Funding exists for 10 students
			1. Will be looking for funding from the “sending” states and from other deep pockets
		3. Faculty from NH, Vermont, and National
		4. Each student will propose a project
		5. 5 weeks of Zooming!
		6. Rob: New Futures can participate again.
		7. Ken: I can share curriculum and references. If interested, reach out to Ken
	5. SNaHP chapter at Geisel
		1. Nikki: there will be a change of leadership to 1st year student(s) soon
8. Treasurer’s report - $2021.93 ($1250 is ear-marked for internship)
9. New Business – none
10. Next virtual meeting: March 24, 2021