**Granite State PNHP**

**Minutes, February 22, 2016**

1. Introductions
2. Minutes from January 25
3. HB250 Study Committee
   1. Report
   2. What is next?
4. Opportunities to present at public gatherings
   1. Rotary Clubs
      1. Spreadsheet (from Geisel student David Lakomy)
      2. Intro letter (Camilla and Susan)
      3. Next steps
   2. UNH Department of Nursing
      1. Speaker on SP for graduate-level Health Policy class
   3. Monadnock Progressive Alliance
      1. Health Care Rally Saturday, February 25, 1-3pm, Keene
      2. Request speaker on SP bills combined into study committee
5. Students
   1. Geisel – Sarah Rosenstein/David Lakomy – Students for a National Health Program (SNaHP)
      1. Summit March 11 Temple
      2. Lunch meetings
   2. Dartmouth College undergraduate – ?internship
      1. Sadhana Puri
      2. Mid-March to Mid June
6. Membership news: who is active, who is inactive? Do we want to call former members?
7. New business
8. Next meeting: ?March 22 – (Don not available)

Attending:

Ahmed Kutty

Donald Kollisch

Rob Kiefner

Gary Sobelson

Lauren Hallahan (phone)

Nick Perencevich

Dixon Turner

Gerry DeBonis (phone)

Chip Deming (phone)

1. Ahmed: pass the minutes
2. Dixon: Major concerns
   1. I am concerned with Medicare as a model, since many Internists can’t survive financially with just Medicare.
   2. I am concerned with Drug prices; any plan – if it is to work – must control medication costs
3. Ahmed: for Medicare to work, it must be “Improved and Expanded Medicare for All”
4. Ahmed, re: HB250: 10 physicians testified at Commerce Committee in favor of HB250. The Committee voted 21-0 to bundle HB 250 with HB 321 (a public option) and HB611 (related to underwriting) into a STUDY COMMITTEE. It will appear on the House floor before the end of February. If the House passes the Bill, then – in March – it will cross over into a Senate Committee.
   1. We will need to mobilize to speak at that Senate hearing.
   2. Dick McNamara will still introduce the bill
   3. Ahmed: I will speak with Dick to find out if we should be contacting Senators, ?from Commerce ?from Health
   4. Gary: Valerie Acres, the NHMS Gov’t Affairs person, can track this for us. I will speak with her about this.
5. Nick: what happened with previous bills?
   1. Gary and Ahmed related the history (2007, 2015, 2016, 2017)
6. Ahmed: a Study Committee (as compared to a Study Commission) consists only of Legislators
   1. Rob: a Committee of legislators, without Expertise, may not go far or deep.
   2. Don: I am worried that the query about a high-risk pool may hijack the Committee
   3. Gary (checking on Senate Committee members):
      1. Donna Soucy and Betty Laskey on Commerce might be approachable
      2. Martha Hennessy and Martha Fuller and Jeb Bradley on Health are approachable
7. Gary: What do we do if it passes?
   1. Gary: Perhaps get Dick McNamara and/or Jerry Knirk onto the Committee
   2. Ahmed: Tom Sherman has agreed to testify
   3. Don: perhaps we should bring in an “outside” heavy hitter to testify, e.g. Deb Richter
8. Don: Rotary Clubs
   1. There is a spreadsheet with details of the Rotary Clubs in NH
   2. Will Camilla and Susan finalize an introductory letter?
9. UNH Speaker on Health Policy
   1. We can put together a panel, esp Ahmed and/or Gary
10. Rob: Linda Tasker at NH Tech wants a speaker; I will re-contact to find out when and what format
11. Monadnock Progressive Alliance in Keene is looking for a speaker on Single-Payer between 1 and 3 in Central Square Keene
    1. Ahmed: I can do it, as well as speaking in Peterborough
    2. Don: I can do it, also
12. Don: shall we engage with Dartmouth College Student Intern, Sadhana Puri?
    1. Ahmed: she could reach out to Rotary Clubs, matched to speakers
    2. Ahmed: she can reach out to Membership
    3. Don: we need a Mentor
       1. Ahmed can do it at a distance
    4. Don: I will contact Sadhana and let her know what it might entail
    5. Don: I will send a proposal to PNHP
    6. Don: I will ask PNHP if a reduced dues could be available to lapsed members who re-join
13. Dixon: could an intern help do a Survey of NH Doctors’ interest in Single-Payer
    1. Gary: NH Policy Center did it in 2007 for >$10,000
    2. Rob: could we do it ourselves?
    3. Don: could we get a class at Dartmouth or UNH?
    4. Gary: the Medical Society does occasional surveys; let us ask them to include Single-payer questions the next time.
    5. Lauren: polling speaks volumes, if it is done right
    6. Gary: can we include policy questions with the Board survey (regarding which there is a bill pending HB322)?
    7. Don: she can explore the potential but not DO a survey
14. Ahmed: Ed Helm is promoting the new movie by Richard Masters (producer of FIXIT) is called “Market Failure”, about drug prices out of control.
    1. Ed Helm is going to see about getting a shorter, condensed version.
    2. Ahmed: I can put a link to the preview copy onto the List-serv
    3. Ed will get it onto Community Access TV
15. Dixon: great article in Vanity Fair last year about drug prices.
16. Gary: I wonder if high drug prices are due to the mandatory 80% Medical Loss Ratio from the ACA
17. Treasurer’s Report: We have $1,261.37
18. Next Meeting: March 22, 2017 – Ahmed Kutty will lead