**Granite State PNHP**

**Agenda/Minutes**

**December 6, 2023**

Attending:

Samy Amkieh

Ken Dolkart

Jim Fieseher

Kay Hillinger

Don Kollisch

Ahmed Kutty

Thomas Lane

Resmiye Oral

1. Introductions
2. Minutes from October 25 – minutes accepted as amended
3. Chapter activities
   1. NH
      1. Proposing a legislative "Health Care Caucus" –
         1. Ahmed – 5 legislators interested - Peter Schmidt, Jonah Wheeler, Bill Palmer (former Governor of NH ACP), Peter Leishman, Jim Murphy and Sue Prentiss
         2. Ken: consider reaching out to Cindy Rosenwald (Nashua). I will get her number to Ahmed
         3. *Ahmed: I do not think such a caucus is necessarily DOA. So I will continue to gently push the 5 reps*
      2. Can there be a Price/Control Commission?   The "AHEAD" Grant from CMMI - Ken/Ahmed/Thomas
         1. Ahmed: Palmer interested in the AHEAD grant, but thinks that CMC, DH and Cheshire are not interested
         2. Ken: I presented the AHEAD Grant to the NH Legislative Commission on Primary Care Workforce, with a lot of interest
         3. Ken: Joanne Conroy (DHMC) not interested
         4. Ken: Mary Bidgood (Commission head) sent the AHEAD grant to Steve Ahearn at the NHHA, but hasn’t heard back.
         5. Ken: NH-DHHS would probably be the primary applicant; but the State of NH may not qualify, as we do not have alternative payment mechanisms
      3. FITN primaries
         1. Thomas: Dean Phillips committed to bipartisanship. He now does support MC4A! (convinced by stories of denied care)
            1. Samy: 2 years ago he did not!
         2. Ken: Marianne Williamson, who supports MC4A
         3. Samy: Trump coming to NH on Dec. 16. I may confront him.
         4. Ken: Cinde Warmington (Candidate for Governor) in favor of MC4A nationally
   2. Public education events
      1. Presentations
         1. Upper Valley Clinicians - Adam Gaffney speaker - Nov. 1
            1. About 30-35 participants
            2. Don: next step will be a screening of Film at DHMC
            3. Kay: Dr. Ebert (previously associated with Med Insurance) attended and supports MC4A
            4. Bill Palmer (former governor of NH-ACP and current NH legislator attended and urged MD’s to organize)
         2. Kendal-at-Hanover (Retirement Community) - Nov. 28
            1. Don: attended by 40
         3. Ken: “Adventures in Learning” (Adult learning in New London) will teach “Healing our Health System”
      2. “American Hospitals” movie screening
         1. Lebanon - Nov. 15 "OSHER"  - Don
            1. 32 attendees
            2. Main interest: Medicare Advantage
      3. Dr. Tom Ebert is teaching another OSHER course this winter in Lebanon on  "Why the US Will Not Adopt Medicare For All"
   3. Letters to the Editor (LTE’s)?
      1. Thomas: I submitted an Op-Ed to a Minneapolis paper.
      2. Jim: I have been writing about Gun Violence, not MC4A
   4. Speakers at future meetings
      1. Lucy Hodder, Esq. - January 17, 2024
      2. Phil Lawson, MD (Littleton) or Benoit Gosselin MD (DHMC Lebanon) - trained in Canada
         1. Ken: consider asking both to come
         2. Ahmed: can they speak knowledgeably about current practice experiences
   5. Newly established “Health Care Consumer Protection Trust Fund and Advisory Board” – July 2023 approved by legislature
      1. Ken: this derived from Exeter hospital being purchased by Beth Israel (Boston) changing status, similar to the NH Endowment for Health. Will focus on transparency. Not legislative.
      2. Resimye: I asked Matt Houde, and learned that it was included as a trailer to the Budget.
4. Student (SNaHP) activities
   1. Medical Debt
      1. Samy: “Medical Student Grand Rounds” presentation about Medical Debt (about 15 audience) and buy-back program
      2. Samy: SNaHP working with “RIP Medical Debt”on initiating a debt cancellation program with COVID relief funds [<https://ripmedicaldebt.org/>](https://ripmedicaldebt.org/)
      3. Thomas: looking for money from Lebanon, Hanover, and Grafton County
5. National Issues –
   1. Grand Rounds speaker training - video available
      1. *Don: I will send out links*
      2. *Resimye: would Ken be interested in giving Pediatrics Grand Rounds. I will approach Cathy Shubkin and Keith Loud*
   2. Annual Meeting 11/10-12/23 – Atlanta
      1. Ahmed: a new generation of leaders is stepping forward
      2. Ahmed: key theme was stopping privatization of Medicare to preserve it.
      3. Ahmed: I attended the demonstration (with 100 others) to protest the closing of a minority-serving hospital. Good presentations from elected officials. Outcome: land will be reclaimed by the city.
      4. Ahmed/Don: it was an energizing experience
      5. Don: Northeast Regional meeting: Maine and Vermont interested in a multi-state compact
   3. Calling lapsed members to re-join
      1. *Don: I will send out the lists to our steering Committee and ask you to let me know if you can reach out to lapsed members*
      2. Jim: I was asked to call 25 Vermonters, and I will decline
      3. Samy: does PNHP have an auto-dialer and auto-texter?
         1. *Don: I may ask national staff*
   4. Efforts to get Legislators - Pappas and Kuster - to sign this year's letter against Medicare Advantage
      1. *Kay: I responded and my name will go to the Legislators. I will look for it and send it out to us.*
      2. Thomas: we can send e-mails to the legislators’ offices asking them to not sign the MA letter and to perhaps sign the anti-MA letter. I can draft one to share that others can modify and use themselves.
   5. Primary Care Transformation Summit, Dec. 4-7 online – horrifying! <https://primarycaretransformationsummit.com/>
6. New Business
   1. Jim: I am switching from a United Health Care MA product to Traditional Medicare (plus Part D) plus Medi-Gap/Supplemental
      1. Thomas: is there a guide on the PNHP
   2. Samy: Mark Cuban (Cost Plus Drugs) considering a run for President!
7. Treasurer’s Report - $1234.93
   1. $100 spent for 50 copies of the Single-Payer Comic book <https://www.cartoonstudies.org/css-studio/cartooningprojects/healthcare/>
      1. *Don: I will get a few copies to Thomas and Samy*
   2. Check for $293.90 for the Nov. 1 event hasn't cleared yet
8. Next meeting January 17th.   Lucy Hodder, Esq guest
   1. We are to solicit questions about Hospital Mergers and Price/Cost Controls
      1. *Don: send questions to me by e-mail*
      2. *Ahmed: I will ask about Mondadnock/CMC*
      3. *Samy: I will ask about Health Equity acquisitions and how non-profits utilize the gains*
   2. She will send out a reading list