**Granite State PNHP**

**Agenda/Minutes**

**February 22, 2023 – Zoom**

**Attending:**

Ken Dolkart

Jim Fieseher

Don Kollisch

Ahmed Kutty

Thomas Lane

1. Minutes from last meeting on January 21, 2023 - approved
2. Chapter activities
   1. NH Legislature – Bills
      1. HB353 - Interstate Compact for Single-Payer – voted ITL primarily because of the concerns of a Democrat (Rep. Spiers) that Medicare waivers would **never** be available.
         1. Ahmed: no waivers have been granted, as no states have fully passed a Single-Payer bill
         2. Don: what is the lesson here? It relates to the political process
         3. Jim: we should have contacted Rep. Spiers later to bring her into the fold by addressing her personal/professional concerns
         4. Ken: keep your powder dry, as other states, including Maine are moving in that direction
         5. *Ken: I will ask Peter Schmidt: “Is 353 truly dead, or is it a Zombie that can be revitalized, especially for next year?”*
      2. HB319 - All-Payor Committee – Ought to Pass, by Sub-Committee
         1. Ken: the presentation by the Insurance Department on the opacity of hospital costs helped a lot. Also helped by Rep. Terry (R) who was impressed that Republicans in other states supported it
         2. Ken: we ought to look for opportunity to testify at Senate hearings
         3. Thomas: consider taking the Senators out of the Committee.
            1. *Ken: I will ask Peter Schmidt*
         4. Ahmed/Ken: Under All-Payor, would Medicaid costs increase? Not really known. NH’s unique system of Medicaid hospital billing requires deeper inquiry.
            1. *Ken: I will look into it with the Insurance Department and also the literature about Maryland*
         5. *Ken: I will reach out to Peter Schmidt to find out the next steps.*
   2. Can we propose a bill banning Insurance Companies from using the word "Medicare" in advertising?
      1. Jim: I have heard from Rich DePentima that this regulation is federal, not state
      2. Thomas: this might be feasible for **next** year. “Stop the companies from exploiting NH Seniors” by managing the license of the Insurance Companies to advertise any product (not just MA-Part C)
         1. Ken: This is probably a very heavy lift, in terms of balancing Federal vs. State
         2. Gary: Consider mounting effective counter-advertisements
3. Public education events - Rotaries, Libraries, Businesses, Rural Hospitals, League of Women Voters
   1. Press Releases
      1. Gary: a well-written release might well be interested
   2. Ken: the NH Business Review published my op-ed on both bills, and was then picked up by Yahoo News
   3. Jim: a new member of the Dover Dems, Laura Weigle, is a social media “optimizer”. She might be interested in working with us for press releases and also fund-raising.  *Jim: I will invite her to our next GS-PNHP meeting.*
      1. Ken: I would be very happy to have some help with the GS-PNHP Facebook
      2. Many: who is a SP Twitter user?
   4. Don: Who is willing to speak at Rotaries: Ahmed, Don, Jim, Ken, Thomas
   5. Grand rounds or Medical Staff meetings
      1. Ken, Ahmed, and Don have spoken.
   6. Ken: how about grass-roots “house parties” to talk about Health Care costs (and financing)
      1. Thomas and Ahmed: partner with Rights and Democracy
   7. Gary: the population of the US might be more worried about Socialism , big government and “woke-ness” than about costs and equity.
   8. Gary: consider going to Specialty groups
   9. *Ken: I will reach out to Grantham Dems*
   10. *Ken: I will reach out to Bill Palmer, MD (former ACP) and/or Kent Powell (current ACP)*
   11. *Don: I can reach out to Hanover Dems, assisted by Jim*
   12. *Don: I can reach out to Nathan Smith Society*
   13. *Ahmed: I can reach out to Peterborough Dems*
   14. *Gary: in the future I can help connect with medical specialty societies*
4. Northern New England Student Internship
   1. Asking for $1350 to sponsor a student – **Vote affirmative to donate $1350**
   2. Ken: recruiting is very active for this year.
      1. Former interns remain very engaged, so there is a good ROI.
      2. Some home med schools are putting up sponsorship money
      3. We are getting top-notch speakers, and sticking with Zoom
      4. If we have any “good” patients to speak with students, send them along
5. National Issues
   1. PNHP 35th Anniversary
   2. Chapter member Book Launch “Code Grey” Dr. Farzon Nahvi, March 23
      1. *Don: I will ask Farzon to come to another Chapter meeting*
      2. *Don: I will ask Lori for a hot link to the March 23 launch*
   3. Status of REACH and fighting Medicare Advantage
      1. Ahmed: a new group, National Single-Payer is focusing on local government “Propositions” rather than “Resolutions”
   4. Bernie Sanders on Single-Payer.
      1. Don: Bernie said that SP is ideal but not feasible. So let’s work towards Universal Primary Care
      2. *Don: I will reach out to Deb Richter to see where that stands in VT*
      3. *Gary: Medicaid Expansion will likely pass in NH*
6. New Business – none
7. Treasurer's Report - $521.93
8. Next meeting - March 22