**Granite State PNHP**

**Agenda/Minutes**

**July 24, 2024**

Attending:

Ken Dolkart

Jim Fieseher

Kay Hillinger

Betty Keller

Don Kollisch

Ahmed Kutty

Thomas Lane

Dixon Turner

Dan Wise

1. Introductions
2. Minutes from June 2*6 –* approved as submitted
3. National Issues - Heal Medicare (i.e. fighting Medicare Advantage)
   1. New PNHP Report - <https://pnhp.org/taking-advantage/>
   2. Call for a September 30 “Action”
      1. Ken: ask every doctor to call United Health care (or other carrier) to appeal a delayed prior auth or rejection
      2. Ahmed: consider a protest at Anthem/BC/BS or other carrier
         1. Jim: we’d need 100’s of people in order to attract attention
      3. Thomas: pressure Kamala Harris to come out for MC4A or against MA
      4. Ken: focus on the $100 Billion to commercial insurance and the rate of denials
      5. Dan: might AARP be a pressure point to highlight the perfidy of United Health Care
         1. Perhaps work with Mike Padmore
         2. Jim: there is a Seacoast health activist who is engaged with AARP
         3. *Ahmed: Rob Kiefner has worked on this issue; I will f/u*
         4. Dan: I have a public access TV channel
      6. Betty: perhaps have an action at the office of Members of Congress or at Governor’s Office
4. Chapter activities
   1. NH Legislature
      1. Follow up of HR23 (Resolution to instruct congressional delegation to support Universal Health Insurance)
         1. Jim: Rep. Lamontagne working on a new resolution.
         2. *Jim: I have spoken with Rep. Schmidt about getting more bills addressed and passed. I will share a workbook.*
      2. Consumer Protection for purchasing Medicare Supplemental for seniors who return to Traditional Medicare from Medicare Advantage "Guaranteed Issue"
         1. Ken: there is a simple change in statute, proposed by Jenn Coffey, calling for community rating, rather than underwriting, when switching from MA back to Traditional Medicare and Supplemental Insurance.
            1. Ken: A worry: premiums might be boosted!
            2. *Ken: I will send Jenn a query about “next steps”*
      3. ?New bills for 2025
      4. Promote a Health Care Caucus – Don and Ahmed
         1. Don: Dave Nagel interested in taking this on
            1. Thomas: ask Dave to engage with Jenn’s project
            2. *Don: I will ask Dave to consider using guaranteed issue for community rating (rather than private underwriting) for bi-partisan action*
         2. Ahmed: at Peterborough Lions, Jonah Wheeler and Peter Leishman say that Health Care is **not** a burning issue in NH
   2. Meetings with Candidates with potential to be partners
      1. NH District 2 Congressional Candidates
         1. Colin van Ostern
            1. *Don: I will try to get him to attend*
         2. Maggie Goodlander
            1. *Don: I will continue to try to get her to attend*
         3. Becky Whitley
      2. NH Governor
         1. Cinde Warmington
            1. *Ken: I will invite her to come*
         2. Joyce Craig
            1. *Don: I will ask Trini Tellez to invite Joyce*
            2. Ken: we can ask her to address CMC’s potential merger with HCA
            3. *Jim: I will ask an intermediary to invite Joyce to attend*
   3. Public education events
      1. Screening film “American Hospitals”
         1. Dover – Jim
            1. UU Fellowship, Durham, Aug. 8, 6:30
            2. Jim: help with flyers?

*Thomas: I will see if I can help with the files*

* + - * 1. Promoting it locally, including among the UU’s
        2. Will be asking for donations at the door
        3. Screening at a larger venue (e.g. Strand in Dover) will cost more money
        4. Panel afterwards will include Dixon
      1. UNH – Resmiye
      2. Upper Valley screening
         1. *Don: I will work on this!!*
  1. Letters to the Editor (LTE’s) or other postings
     1. Ahmed “op-ed”: Monadnock Ledger-Transcript has been well-received

1. Northern NE Student Internship – Ken & Betty
   1. Ken: successful, including an undergrad from UNH: dedicated to learning, good presentations on a range of topics
   2. Ken: high hopes for their advocacy in the future
      1. 13 Students from NJ, TX, LA, NYC
   3. Betty: quite successful and good ROI
2. Geisel SNaHP (Students for a National Health Program) – no report
3. GS-PNHP leadership for 24-25
   1. *Don: I will reach out to Samy to see if he wants to stay on*
   2. *Don: we will meet on another Wednesday at 6:30*
4. New Business
   1. *Don: I will add Dan Wise to list-serv*
5. Treasurer’s Report - $935.03
   1. *Don: I will try to get Ledyard to drop $3 monthly fee*
6. Next meeting - August 28