

PNHP Annual Meeting November 18, 2020.

Present: Betty Keller, Jane Katz Field, Marvin Malek, Rick Hubbard, Ann Reynolds, Patricia Chadwick, Alice Silverman, Walter Carpenter, Ted Cody, Ruth Cody,

I. The first order of business was to introduce ourselves around.

II. Officers and Executive Committee .

By a vote of 7/0 the group approved changing the name of the "Executive Committee" to "Board of Directors" with those serving on the Board being "Board Members" or "Directors.," This required a change of the bylaws. Additional bylaws revisions were discussed later in the agenda. By informal consensus of the members in a May 30th meeting, Betty was selected as president and Jane as vice president. Ted volunteered to be secretary. Sometime after the meeting Marvin volunteered to serve as an at-large member and Paul Millman as treasurer. This slate was approved 7/0 by the group at hand today.

III. Jane reported on her important work with The Vermont State Medical Society.

During the first week of November 78% of that body voted to adopt her true single-payer resolution. (A copy of that document was e-mailed to all members on this mailing list earlier today). She will be taking questions on her success once again on the evening of November 19 in the One Payer States chat group.

A second resolution was also presented by a group of physicians thinking of themselves as incrementalists. This second resolution was much more vague, supporting universal access as obtained by almost any means.

Despite several inquiries, the VMS has not as yet publicized its support of single-payer. To date, we thought it best that they be allowed to speak to the press first, though there is the danger that the second resolution may dilute the impact of the former.

IV. OneCare initiative.

In a recent meeting the Vermont Chapter of PNHP discussed the performance of OneCare, a private corporation which manages Vermont's statewide ACO. Steve Kemble reviewed the objectives of ACO's for us at that meeting. We then decided to sign on to a letter written by Vermont Healthcare for All in opposition to OneCar.

While that letter was released to the press, most of us have not seen any reference to it. Here is the relevant article:

<https://vtdigger.org/2020/09/28/five-nonprofits-call-on-vermont-officials-to-leave-onecare/>

Walter Carpenter referenced a recent letter by Lee Russ in the Digger.

[https://vtdigger.org/letters\\_to\\_editor/questions-about-all-payer-system/](https://vtdigger.org/letters_to_editor/questions-about-all-payer-system/)  
[https://vtdigger.org/letters\\_to\\_editor/onecare-replies-to-a-readers-questions/](https://vtdigger.org/letters_to_editor/onecare-replies-to-a-readers-questions/)

Ann, who is active in Vermont healthcare for all, volunteered to keep us updated.

V. Perceived problems with Sen. Sanders' single-payer bill.

Next we discussed previous efforts by our chapter to get Sen. Sanders to make certain changes to his single-payer bill. Specifically, he had made no provisions for global hospital budgeting, changes that could conceivably have kept Springfield hospital out of bankruptcy. Further, he declined to take a specific stance against ACO's, though both items were present in Representative Jayapal's bill.

Sen. Sanders office has not yet replied to our letter. When Marvin and Betty met in person with

one of his staff members, Kathryn Becker Van Haste, back in February, 2019, she showed little interest, and we heard nothing more for follow up.  
A successful effort on our part may require a larger coalition in order to obtain a meeting.

#### VI. Town resolutions.

Public Citizen has been campaigning across the country to introduce nonbinding resolutions in favor of single-payer in as many towns as possible. Grantham and Hanover, New Hampshire have both passed such resolutions over the past year. One of our summer intern medical students was involved in a similar effort which was passed by the New Orleans City Council last spring.

Ted and Jane are currently involved in similar efforts in Springfield and Putney, respectively. A meeting with the Board of Selectmen in Springfield is tentatively scheduled for December 14. Unfortunately the Covid epidemic has made the usual process of collecting 5% of citizens' signatures extremely problematic.

The text of Hanover's resolution, as well as the Secretary of State's rules on this issue were distributed to tonight's group earlier today.

A Public Citizen toolkit is available to help in planning resolution efforts in other towns:

<https://www.medicare4allresolutions.org/tools-for-activists/>

#### VII. Bylaws changes, continued.

A copy of the bylaws is appended below. **Red printed items** represent changes suggested by Betty's and Charles Gregory's review. They were passed en bloc by a unanimous vote, with two exceptions:

Item number 4.4 was judged to be repetitive and was deleted.

The definition of a quorum in Item 4.4 was reduced from 6 to 5.

#### VIII. We postponed discussion of how to attract more physicians and other involved citizens to this group until next meeting.

#### IX. Internship.

Partly as a result of its switch to an online event, planning and managing the Northern New England 2020 Medical Student Summer Internship involved a great deal of work.

Nonetheless the student evaluations of the internship were uniformly enthusiastic and urged its continuation, annually.

This year's students were primarily from southern states. A single Vermont student was forced to cancel due to family issues.

Our goal of spreading the single-payer word seems to have paid off: From this year alone: Two students have given talks at their schools regarding single-payer and one has spoken to the general public as part of One Payer States. Another intern has volunteered to speak to medical students at Dartmouth.

We therefore decided to hold the event again in summer 2021, hopefully building upon the work we have done this year.

While we have not as yet decided upon the specific dates, we decided by informal consensus tonight to repeat the videoconferencing format, due to the pandemic and unpredictability of travel and housing options next summer

We will be meeting virtually on **Thursday, December 3 at 8 PM** to decide how to divide up recruitment, fund-raising, PNHP website, grant applications, and advertisements, among other things,.

The next regular meeting of Vermont PNHP was scheduled for **Thursday, December 17 at 8 PM**, also to take place on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Keller, M.D. and Ted Cody M.D.