

HCACF Board Minutes June 17, 2019

Present: Vince Markovchick, Tom Gottlieb, Donna Smith, Michele Swenson, Elinor Christiansen, Shelley Cohen, Robert Messman, Susan Gilbert

Absent: Eldon VanderWege

Meeting convened at 2:35 pm.

Previous Month's Minutes Approved & Seconded

TG: Communications using Google groups for HCACF, HCAC – some people not included. Susan may initiate inclusion with groups.

TG: Reformatting headings on webpage to clarify some categories of information – under consideration, will submit to board for consideration after R&E Committee discusses.

TG: End of Fiscal Year – Time for Annual Report – Tom compiled information for Annual HCAC meeting. (EC: Suggest comparing to 2018 Annual Report, which was well done.)

TG: Strategic Plan for FY 2019 – goals for coming year. EC: Add 2 Medicare for All bills – inform ourselves, and educate others. VM: Each subgroup should submit their report. SC: Much of what is needed is education of the people. May need 5-year plan, as short-term is difficult. TG: Suggest working with Elinor to focus on 1-year plan.

VM: Need open letter to Congress – why privatized Medicare Advantage is more costly, etc.
SC: We need educational YouTube Videos with good graphics.

EC: Spoke with Jeanne Nicholson – requests HCAC & HCACF each donate \$500 to CFUHC Conference. VM: Need itemized list of where the money is dedicated. Cover cost of Wendell Potter flight? HCAC Advocacy picking up Cost of 3 awards. What is WPotter's honorarium? DS: WP - previously charged \$5,000. Attendance to conference is \$40.

TG: Move that the amount be reduced to \$300.

EC: Motion that HCACF contribute \$500 to CFUHC Conference – seconded by Donna Smith.

TG: Would like to be invited to spend time w/ Wendell Potter. DS: There should be program acknowledgement of HCACF for co-sponsorship. VM: Can DS talk to Jeannie Nicholson?
EC: Request invitation be sent to board members/officers the night before. RM: Modify EC's motion to include requests for acknowledgement, time with WP. Literature table has been offered for event. Elinor's motion for donation passed without opposition.

TG: How much donation has been made to HCAC Advocacy by end of fiscal year? Have given total \$1150 already. VM: Give balance to equal 20% allowable amount for the year? TG: Contributed \$760 (\$660 from EOY letter) to HCAC by end of year? RM: HCACF also paid \$40 for HCAC insurance.

MS: Report regarding Podcast - details added after meeting: Denver Open Media has been defunded by the City, and the City has removed a fair amount of equipment, but DOM as of now has a

soundproof booth & two fully equipped studios where videos or audio recordings can be made. There is still some equipment available for checkout for making podcasts, including microphones, a Zoom Recorder, MAC laptops with recording & editing software, e.g., Garage Band & Adobe Audition, etc. I have a universal mic that I used at home to record a draft podcast (hear attached podcast with music added) using Garage Band software. Podcasts will be broadcast on the 2 Denver Open Media radio stations 92.9 FM & 89.3 HD3 (high definition) – the first is limited to Denver, the latter covers the front range from Colorado Springs to Ft. Collins. Ultimately I would like to obtain underwriting, e.g., from health & environmental groups. I settled on the name "Truthseekers" for the podcast, to cover issues of social justice, including health and environment. It is possible to add images and/or video to a podcast to make a YouTube video. As an example, I recorded a commentary the week before the election & added images to make a YouTube video – it can be viewed at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71Vj7UOEc0g>

DS: Public Citizen work has been slowed by D.C. hearings. VM & DS speaking to Eagen of Public Citizen. Talking about privatization of Medicare – white paper on Medicare Advantage – perhaps ready by fall? VM: focus on educating people about funding, subsidization of MA, how much fraud being perpetrated. RM: One MA recipient's hospital was dropped from network – she lost her provider during treatment.

RM: Advertising for MA is massive. SC: neighbor with personal story of MA plans. MA parallels with '90s physician management groups – primary care docs "owned" by groups that declared bankruptcy. VM: MA plans marketed as "advantage" over traditional Medicare. TG: with New West Physicians – decided only to see MA patients, not traditional Medicare – doubled income to primary care Docs in Denver.

DS: United HC controls 70% of MA market.

VM: MA also getting extra for "risk adjustment." It costs more to fund MA than traditional Medicare.

TG: Extended Medicare framework - paperwork distributed, one page with charts of Sources of Medicare Revenue, 2017.

Part A Hospital – payroll taxes & premiums.

Part B – Physician coverage. (See chart).

Expanding Medicare to those under 65 – premiums, etc. Where does money come from? - No financial plan in 2 MFA bills. DS: financing done when it goes to Conference Committee. Now bills are more aspirational than finalized. RM: Need to determine financing. TG: Need to emphasize people over profits; the wealthiest need to provide additional funding that goes into General Revenue. MS: Everyone pays in according to means.

TG: Need to look at source of current Medicare revenue, adjustments for the future. General revenue makes up the balance to make Medicare sustainable. EC/RM: M4A \$ should be in a Trust Fund, separate from General Revenue. DS: PNHP states money is already in the system (requires reallocation?) VM: Whatever goes in to private premiums now should be allocated to extended Medicare. TG: There is a difference of opinion whether payroll taxes should be allocated to help fund Medicare – most on the board agree they should.

DS: Request subscription to New England Journal of Medicine – Health Affairs – ask Susan to check on discount for nonprofit group.

Meeting adjourned: 4pm.

Next Meeting: July 15 (3rd Monday) There are 5 Mondays in July – could meet on July 22(?)

Minutes submitted by: Michele Swenson