

HCACF Board Meeting
Minutes July 15, 2019

Present: Tom Gottlieb, Michele Swenson, Vince Markovchick, Robert Messman, Donna Smith, Administrator
Susan Gilbert

Conference Call-in: Elinor Christiansen

Absent: Eldon VanDerWege, Shelley Cohen

Meeting Convened: 2:43pm

Minutes of June 17, 2019 Meeting - Approved & Seconded

Financial Report from Robert Messman:

- Difficulty dealing with insurance company, switched insurance agents to improve service. Office & Directors' insurance renewed for HCACF – handled separately from HCAC. Premium for Foundation \$650+. Copy of coverage in the office file. Revised financial statements to detect and correct insurance lapse.
- Revised financial statement presentation to improve monitoring
- Changed investment instruments and processes to improve yield on endowment by 2.5 times Question: How much in investment account? Answer: \$66,0000+ in Treasury Bills
- Switched to electronic payments to improve security & cut accounting costs; automatic payment processes for recurring bills ensure prompt, accurate payment processes.
- Revised accounting procedures to improve oversight, efficiency & communications
- Improved security control over bank accounts
- Board of Directors switched financial reviews from monthly to quarterly.
 - Board voted to accept financial report.

Election of Board Officers by unanimous vote

Co-presidents: Donna Smith & Tom Gottlieb

Treasurer: Robert Messman

Secretary: Michele Swenson

Discussion of **Annual Report**

Corrections:

"Social" instead of "socialized" health insurance

HCACF – founded 2003 – not "1993"; HCAC – founded in 2001 – not "1991."

Board will review & edit; revisit Annual Report at August meeting.

DS & TG: Recommendation - Add account of Volunteer Hours – by Board & others. RM: Add Events participated in.

Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-2020: Edited largely by Elinor C. & Shelley C. & others. Susan will send efile version, and board will revisit in a month.

SG: August Newsletter – please share suggested contributions with Susan.

King Soopers will send check for \$97+ (earnings since April).

Safeway – no earnings yet; sold 1 card at an event.

SG: Website – getting mostly new hits, especially after a post; not a lot of return visits.

DS: Communication Committee meeting July 13 led by Nathan Wilkes. DS & MS, former senator Jeannie Nicholson attended. Two new younger folks contributed ideas. Possibly there can be some cooperation on creating Podcasts and writing to frame the narrative around health insurance reform.

MS: There was discussion about the false narrative by industry surrounding health insurance – repeated by many of candidates. Industry promotes employer-provided insurance and Medicare Advantage because they make a lot of money from these coverages.

MS: First Podcast **Dismantling Lies of the Health Insurance Industry** created as a narrative with music added, posted on Denver Open Media website – at this url: <https://www.denveropenmedia.org/projects/truthseekers-podcast>

This podcast incorporates the audio portion of Wendell Potter's video, and I have shared it with him through email. I recorded the audio narrative at my kitchen table using a universal mic, & Garage Band software on a MAC laptop. In the future, we have access at Denver Open Media equipment (mics, recording devices) and to additional software, such as Adobe Audition, as well as access to a studio for recording. I am putting together scripts for future podcasts focused on human and environmental health, and welcome suggestions. I would like to discuss at the next meeting a request that HCACF contribute to underwriting of the podcasts.

DS & VM working with Public Citizen. White Paper: Medicare for All & Medicare Advantage (privatization of traditional Medicare) due out possibly in late August.

TG: Uwe Reinhardt – new book "Priced Out" just printed posthumously. Refers to "elephant in the room" – do Americans care about those without money and no health care access?

TG: PNHI – Paper on prescription plan is almost completed. Includes business principles, like Germans who bargain based on price and volume. PNHP counts on price-fixing and market to solve problem - drives companies out of business. RM: Results in misallocation of products.

TG: It is important to keep those over 65 in one group for coverage. Considering social supports, how to fund those. Eldon writing a technical paper, and TG is re-writing.

TG: Spoke with Wendell Potter. Potter is from Philadelphia, where, working for CIGNA, he tried to get a favorable situation for CIGNA. Discussed with Potter how to buy out insurers based on enterprise value of insurance companies – not so expensive to buy them out - \$700B contrasted with \$3.5 trillion U.S HC spending.

TG: Potter's group *Business Initiative for Health Policy* is putting together a financial plan; also considering how to take care of poor people. TG would like us to dialogue with Potter's group regarding these issues.

DS: Consider a fundraising event, perhaps late fall or early next year. Rebecca Wood testified for HCNOW about her story in Washington – consider her as guest speaker? Place consideration of an event on the August agenda. Reminder - HCNOW Strategy Conference on Oct 18-20 in Portland, Oregon.

Meeting dismissed at 4:15pm. Next HCACF Board Meeting August 19.

Minutes submitted by: Michele Swenson