

Health Care for All Colorado Foundation
Board Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2019

Conference Call: 605.468.8012 Conference Code: 941668

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

Meeting convened at 3:00 pm by co-president Tom Gottlieb

TG: Tom brought fresh garden produce & cookies, to celebrate Susan's 2-year anniversary. Everyone expressed thanks to Susan for her tremendous support. Tom & Donna will discuss bonus, salary increase, etc. for Susan.

DS: Donna is celebrating receiving a Medicare card, becoming Medicare member beneficiary in November, and may place a notice on website requesting donations based on the countdown – e.g., "43 days to Medicare".

Old Business & Reports

TG: The August Minutes were approved and unanimously accepted. Tom inquired where mention of the *Annual Report* was in the August Minutes. MS: Mention was brief, as follows: "*Annual Report*: passed." As I recall, there was a brief discussion of which of several forms created by Susan to use for "In-Kind Donations." A decision was made, and the Annual Report was passed.

SG: Through *Tech Soup*, an email was received offering nonprofit groups 10 free Microsoft software programs – (limited to one year or forever? Susan will check). Some Board members said they would accept if it was not limited.

TG: The *Strategic Plan* will be finalized after Tom sees and reconciles 2 different drafts of the R&E Committee plan written by Tom and Michele, who will resend to Tom the draft she wrote.

EC: 30+ people attended Elinor's presentation about Medicare for All at St. Andrew's Village. One naysayer expressed a more positive view after the presentation. Elinor also hosted a successful event with state senate candidate Andrew Romanoff at St. Andrew's Village.

Finance

RM: HCACF picked up the total rent for the CCLP office space - \$250 for the month, including HCAC Advocacy's share. RM: HCACF paid full \$250 rent for both September and October.

Continuation of discussion begun at the R&E Committee meeting: HCAC Advocacy should probably not have keys for after hours, as they are no longer paying insurance, rent, etc. TG: Is there a need to put together an addendum to the contract? We need a proposal to present to the board.

TG: I believe that concern was raised regarding HCACF being a lessor and these concerns include the following:

- ✓ HCAC has no money to pay for rent. HCACF will be left with paying the entire rent (\$250.00 per month). Let's consider how we might be able to assist HCAC.

- ✓ HCACF paid the total rent for both HCAC and HCACF (\$250.00) in October 2019 [and also in September- See Robert's note above.] **Conclusion:** I suspect that \$125.00 is considered an advocacy donation to HCAC Advocacy and should be recorded as such. It cannot be a simple donation by IRS rules
- ✓ On a short term we agreed to a) share the office space (HCACF with 10 hours per week) and HCAC with ? hours per week, b) permit HCAC use of conference room, c) provide a mailbox, d) provide a telephone, e) would NOT provide management/secretarial services by our administrator (i.e. HCAC is responsible for managing HCAC mail and TP messages), f) provide a contract for a “long-term” relationship within a month or two which may include continued donation of space OR payment for space, and g) perhaps more issues that I forgot.
- ✓ Therefore, HCACF is providing a sub-lease to HCAC, a situation that states that HCACF has the responsibilities of a lessor in its relationship to the lessee (HCAC).
- ✓ Question(s):
 - How do we deal with the issue of HCAC not having liability insurance/BOD insurance
 - How do we deal with management of HCAC keys (two sets) to the suite; to the office building?
 - What are our responsibilities of a lessor?
 - And more.

These issues need to a) discussed with HCAC Advocacy (perhaps at their next HCAC BOD meeting which I believe is next Monday October 14, 2019 and b) be raised at the next HCACF BOD meeting with discussion and conclusion.

DS: I will want to discuss the rent situation more at our next board meeting. Essentially, our office is our office. I do not think it is fair to charge HCAC with half as a donation to them because they are essentially only meeting there once a month and receiving mail. I believe we should work out what that cost is and see that as a “donation.” I would propose no more than \$50/month until they actually need to use the office again.

DS: And, at their last board meeting, HCAC was discussing the process by which they will request ore help from us. I think they are likely to propose various educational outreach efforts under which IRS rules allow HCACF to fund those efforts not as advocacy activities subject to a 20% cap but as educational support that allows HCACF to fund more generously. As an example, our upcoming conference with Pramila Jayapal, date TBD, will need planning and admin effort as an education project. I support 100% having a budget for that event that includes funds for admin effort.

Website Report

SG: A *Glossary* of terms has been added to HCACF web site – one can click on a highlighted term, and a new document pops up with a clarifying definition. Terms can be added to the Glossary any time - it is a "living document." Glossary access is on the bottom right side of the Website Home Page.

SG: Current data representing the HCACF Website visits shows ~ 20% returning to website. Immediately after something is posted, more visits occur.

New Business

SG: Susan circulated a draft September *Newsletter* for viewing, and will email it to the Board. For the end of year letter, the intention is to ask people to opt-in to receive emails.

DS: Lydia of HCAC Advocacy and Donna have conferred about bringing the two boards together to begin planning a late spring or early summer fundraising event.

1) It is suggested that Rep. P. Jayapal be invited to speak. Rep. Jayapal is apparently more flexible around her re-election campaign next year; conjecture is that early June 2020 would be best for her tentative visit date.

2) Regarding a Strategy Planning Meeting of the two groups – HCAC Advocacy & HCAC Foundation – two dates appear to be best for most people to meet at Elinor's home in Dillon according to polling - Friday, Oct. 4 & Saturday, Oct. 5. Every date has drawbacks for some. Oct. 4 was selected as the most viable date.

Agenda for Proposed Spring/Early Summer Event

EC: There should be discussion around Rep. Jayapal's bill HR 1364.

TG: Tom would like to meet with Rep. Jayapal, offer her someone's home to stay in. She is willing to travel, meet and educate folks about H.R. 1364 – the best time is probably in early June around the time of the annual meeting.

Two main agenda items for a Spring event:

1) Define common ground regarding Medicare for All National Public Health Insurance between HCAC Advocacy and HCAC Foundation.

2) Plan for the meeting with Rep. Jayapal. Should the event be a Rep. Jayapal event only?

DS: Donna is an official surrogate for Bernie Sanders' Medicare For All bill. Some candidates are changing their tune about what they are supporting. Some folks who are talking "universal health care" are not supporting true MFA; instead they support some "choice" of private health insurance. Healthcare Now is drawing up a litmus test around support of Medicare For All for 2020 candidates.

SC: We should discuss who will attend the June event – invite groups that will support true MFA. MFA coverage s/b called "National Public Health Insurance" – not to confuse it with other proposals that are called "Medicare for All," but are not. There is need to clarify whether HCAC Advocacy still seeks state action, or is dedicated to action around Rep. Jayapal's & Sen. Sanders' federal Medicare for All bills.

TG: There is true National Public Health Insurance and there are corrupted forms of coverage. We need to know what HCAC Advocacy & others are supporting. E.g., Do some members of Advocacy support Michael Bennet's Medicare X?

DS: There is a need to align Advocacy and Foundation with the mission of advancing the two (Sanders' & Jayapal's) Medicare For All bills, so we are working together in unison.

SC: What are people willing to do to advance true MFA bills? Some folks in other states are bird-dogging candidates – will HCAC do the same here with legislators?

EC: Our purpose should be to advance Rep. Jayapal's bill, HR 1364. We need to talk about the future, not the past. Jeanne Nicholson will be very helpful in pulling together a Spring event, as she was key to planning CFUHC's recent event.

RM: Long Term Care is included in Jayapal's bill, and is more of a social issue. In Robert's discussion with Dr. Friedman, he asked the doctor if his analysis of health care savings from the Sanders and Jayapal Bills included LTC. Dr. Friedman said his analysis included picking up the Medicaid costs paid by states, including both medical and Long Term Care.

VM: There should be some focus on the promotion by Washington of employer-provided private health coverage. RM: Now even nurses don't have good health coverage through their employers.

Public Citizen Report

DS: Donna and Vince are working with Eagan of Public Citizen on a White Paper. There is consideration of a bigger rollout related to the election. The next call on the project is one week from tomorrow (Tuesday) – Sept. 24. There is commitment to share the drafts by everyone working on the project. The Sections include Waste, Fraud, Abuse, Cost, and Medicare Advantage. Sections are opened and closed with 8 patient stories. Stories about Medicare Advantage include one about a 70-year-old and one about a 90-year-old.

Rollout may be around the first of year. There is a question about possible use of billboards to publicize the subject matter. Three groups are working on the paper: Progressive Democrats of America, Public Citizen and Health Care for All Colorado Foundations.

VM: Vince is writing a proposal for Colorado Public Radio contrasting Medicare Advantage and Traditional Medicare.

DS: The Trump administration wants to privatize the Veterans' Administration. Ads are airing on TV to get veterans to "come back," as wait times are now shorter at the VA than for private hospitals, where they were previously being referred.

Jeannie Nicholson is proposing a study group regarding messaging around the federal Medicare For All bills.

Podcasts

MS: Robert sent a \$500 check to Denver Open Media for underwriting of Podcasts, as approved by the Board in August. One-quarter of the amount, \$125 goes to Denver Open Media. The remaining \$375 is held as DOM Bucks to go toward payment for use of DOM equipment and facilities, such as studios and computers, including software programs. Three podcasts have been produced and are posted on the DOM Website, and on a RSS Feed, to be available through other sites, e.g., Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, etc. Please suggest possible topics and videos to incorporate into future podcasts. Some possibilities: "Free Market" Profiteers and the Commodification of Health Care; Medicare for All vs. The Public Option Distraction; the continuous huge push by CMS and corporate interests to advocate Medicare Advantage for All; Corporate Socialism at the heart of private health insurance.

Meeting adjourned at 4p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Swenson