

Health Care for All Colorado Foundation
Board Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2020

(New) Conference Call Number: 425.436.6200 Code: 490869#

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

Meeting called to order by co-president Donna Smith at 2:50 p.m.

December 9, 2019 HCACF Board Minutes approved unanimously.

Quarterly Financial Report

RM: Financial Report – *Comparison of Oct-Dec, July-Dec 2019* – will try to change document to compare same time frame for 2 consecutive years. If we pay website software company annually in January instead of monthly, money savings of \$4/month - \$25 instead of \$29/month.

RM: Balance Sheet – investments down. Bank Statement – Treasury Direct will automatically roll investments, resulting in an inadvertent overdraft. Robert covered the overdraft with a \$12,000 deposit. Endowment, total assets are down some. Quarterly Financial Report approved unanimously.

End of Year Letter; Website

SG: End-of-Year letter – Some donations – checks and online donations received. A \$500 Grant received from St. Louis Community Foundation. HCAC Advocacy received \$625.

SG: Website – total visitors as of end of December – 1,296; 6,189 page use. More foreign than U.S. users (during the month of January 2020 only) - curious why.

Information Pieces, Podcasts

MS: Michele created a 1-page, 2-column information sheet contrasting Private Health Insurance with Medicare for All – at the suggestion of R&E Committee, the information sheet is being revised to make it more easily readable. The intent of the information is to share with candidates, legislators, and City Council members when lobbying them to pass a Medicare-for-All Resolution. Since Council Member Debra Ortega said she does not know what "Medicare for All" is, there is an opportunity to give a presentation during City Council Monday open comment period.

MS: Michele lost access to email while out of state in December, therefore is behind on promoting Podcasts, and *Common Dreams* piece, "Medicare is not 'Socialism'." Vince & Michele are working on a couple of podcasts, one based on the *Common Dreams* piece about the many sectors of the economy that profiteer from the private health insurance model – all of whom defend the status quo and oppose Medicare for All. The second is based on the false "choice" of private health insurance.

MS: More possibilities for Podcasts: Big PhARMA gaming the system, promoting high-cost patented drugs, denying access to generics; Congress has passed a law upholding kickbacks to the pharmaceutical industry in some cases.

MS: Dave Bean relates his personal experience – monthly premiums for individual insurance increased from \$100/mo to \$900/month over 8 years, before he became eligible for Medicare. He relates that insurance subsidies are arbitrary, benefiting the middle class, not the poor.

MS: The state "public option" adds complexity to insurance – like all incremental proposals, it increases taxpayer costs to cover inflated administrative costs.

DS: NurseTalk Radio – NNU ceased funding of NurseTalk radio, yet still provides programming. NurseTalk Radio looking for underwriters. If we are to grow "we need to do self-promotion." Does HCACF Board want to

become a sponsor of Nurse Talk Radio? If so, we could list *Truthseekers* Podcasts on their website. Dr. Paul Song/PNHP/Calif – a funder. There is a need to consider ways to share health policy information. Media sources shrinking at the national level. NurseTalk Radio – broadcasts live out of a studio in Marin County, California. NurseTalk will air on Sirius XM, same as Thom Hartmann, etc.

VM: "An Arm & a Leg" Podcast – has updated health information.

Summer Event Planning

EC: Donna, Lydia & Elinor held planning meeting for Summer Fundraising Event. The Democratic Party Convention is in late July. Rep. Pramila Jayapal has been invited to the Event, which could be held Friday/Saturday July 31/August 1 or August 7/ 8. The venue is Lowry Conference Center – 1061 Akron Way, Denver. Rental fee \$225 for a half day (full-day \$450?) - will probably ask for half-day. The venue has abundant parking. The Auditorium could hold up to 1,000. Considering inviting Rick Beezer/PNHP, T.R. Reid – keynotes?. Suggest Friday evening fundraiser at Kirk of the Bonnie Brae - ~\$100 per person. Will request Joe Neguse as emcee; invite Gov. Jared Polis, Lt. Gov. Diana Primavera.

Sponsors of the Event – to contribute \$500 for at least a couple of people at a table – in return, their logo would be printed on banner created for the Event.

Request that suggestions for sponsors be sent to Elinor or Donna. Weekend event cost is \$25; will make scholarships available.

VM: Invite T.R. Reid as keynote speaker?

SG: The Lowry facility charges extra for equipment, e.g., microphone, speakers. "It's easier to use their equipment than to bring in equipment."

VM: Get PNHP to be actively involved. Vince will be talking to Rick Beezer within a few days.

EC: Students for a National Health Plan holding Feb. 15-16 National Conference at Anschutz Medical School. They are looking for volunteers to help.

EC: PNHP hoping for 10,000 signatures of physicians to run an ad in The New York Times.

RM: Have found no one working in hospitals (staff) who likes the current health care model.

VM: Many hospital workers who work at for-profit hospitals are constrained against speaking out, cannot form a union, etc.

Legislative Activity

TG: Tom met with T.R. Reid today; he is working on the legislative initiative for evaluation of 4 options for universal state health care. Committee consists of 6 legislators, + 6 others (T.R. Reid is a member) to choose a group to evaluate 4 health insurance proposals.

Report of PNHI Research Activity

TG: PNHI has authored summaries over the last 2 years, to comprise a book about *Extended Medicare for All* – the underlying philosophy is "Health Financing Drives Equitable HC." The book provides a guide for moving forward within the *Extended Medicare* framework.

Two new manuscripts are available:

1. Extended Medicare for All, A Financial Approach. Eldon Van Der Wege and Thomas Billroth Gottlieb. This manuscript contains the first four manuscripts describing a financial plan for Medicare reform. (34 pages, on the HCACF website under PNHI or https://www.hcacfoundation.org/extended_medicare_for_all_financial_approach)

2. Financing Extended Medicare for All. Eldon Van Der Wege and Thomas Billroth Gottlieb. This manuscript four exhibits.
(5 pages, not yet on the website)

- Exhibit 1: Extended Medicare – Sources of Funds/Payments
- Exhibit 2: Age 65 and older.

- Exhibit 3: Under age 65.
- Exhibit 4: Prescription Drug Coverage for Entire Population

Persons to consider inviting to HCACF Board

EC: The Board should consider Dr. Christine Hembre/Colorado Springs, retired Allergist, El Paso County. She is co-chair of the Universal Health Care group there. HCACF Board should consider inviting her to be on the board.

RM: Michael Chisolm attended HCAC Advocacy meeting Saturday Jan. 11. Suggest getting to know Michael more. He has a lot of experience with the health care system, having worked in private practice, and with Medicaid for some years. Michael Chisholm, M.S.H.A., F.A.C.M.P.E. Obtain phone & email from Robert or Michele.

Suggested Current Books, References

SC: Elizabeth Rosenthal, journalist, wrote a book about health care problem (the need to negotiate prices) – includes no solutions.

VM: A doctor wrote "The Price We Pay" – he does not conclude that we need Single Payer to control costs and abuses. "Code Blue" is a good book about corruption in healthcare.

VM: It is difficult to reach a wide audience of people. The current OLLI Course so far has registered 8 people.

DS: Laurie Kerns was the health policy director for Bernie Sanders Senate office, has now moved to the campaign. A lot of Bernie's Senate staff are moving to the campaign. Donna has handed Laurie information from HCACF. Bernie & Elizabeth Warren are doing best in Iowa. We can educate about health care at forums, etc. There is a need to educate Jason Crow and other legislators.

VM: Billionaire candidates could put money behind HC to educate about MFA.

DS: Bloomberg has said he will back Bernie Sanders. A book is being published about the single payer movement over the last 10 years. Michael Lighty – "bet on Wall St.," which concludes there is a 1-5% chance MFA will become reality in the near future.

Meeting adjourned: 4:10 pm

Next HCACF Board Meeting: February 10, 2020

Submitted by Michele Swenson