



MNsurance Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
81 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN, 1st floor atrium

Participants in attendance: Peter Benner, Kathryn Duevel, Tom Forsythe, Commissioner Lucinda Jesson, Phil Norrgard

Staff in attendance: Scott Leitz, Allison O'Toole, Mike Turpin, Aaron Sinner

Meeting Topics

Welcome

Peter Benner, Board Vice-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 p.m. by Peter Benner, Board Vice-Chair.

Peter read MNsure's purpose: The purpose of the organization is to ensure that every Minnesota resident and small business, regardless of health status, can easily find, choose, and purchase a health insurance product that they value and does not consume a disproportionate share of their income.

Board Officer Elections

Peter Benner, Board Vice-Chair

Peter explained that because the Board's officers serve one year terms and also due to the expiration of Chair Brian Beutner's Board term, the Board needs to elect a new Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

Peter opened nominations for the office of Board Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Lucinda Jesson nominated Peter Benner for a one-year term as Chair. Peter accepted the nomination. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Commissioner Jesson nominated Phil Norrgard to the office of Vice-Chair. She suggested Phil would make a good Board officer due to his background with public programs enrollees. Phil accepted the nomination.

Tom Forsythe nominated Kathryn Duevel to the office of Vice-Chair. He said he has been impressed with her leadership on innovation and connecting with MNsure stakeholders. Kathryn accepted the nomination.

MOTION: On a vote of one vote for Phil Norrgard as Vice-Chair, three votes for Kathryn Duevel as Vice-Chair, and one abstention, Kathryn Duevel was elected Vice-Chair. Board member Jesson voted for Phil Norrgard; Board members Benner, Duevel, and Forsythe voted for Kathryn Duevel; Board member Norrgard abstained.

Consumer story

Kristen Hodsdon, Stillwater

Kristen Hodsdon is a consumer who resides in Stillwater and enrolled in health insurance via MNsure after leaving her job as a nurse practitioner. When enrolling, she was pleasantly surprised to discover that she was eligible to enroll through MNsure despite being offered COBRA, and also that any subsidies would be based on her projected 2015 income rather than 2014 income, which meant she was eligible for a small subsidy. She noted that even without the subsidy, her plan through MNsure cost a couple hundred dollars less per month than her COBRA option. Kristen is currently looking for a part-time job as she nears retirement age and appreciates the security of insurance through MNsure.

Public comment

Heidi Michaels of the Minnesota Association of Health Underwriters (MAHU) thanked Scott Leitz for his tenure as CEO of MNsure. She reported the broker lead agency program is developing increased interest from brokers. She also said MAHU is looking at ways smaller agencies can work into that structure. Heidi also reiterated that brokers are anxious to see development around the broker portal.

Administrative items

Peter Benner, Board Chair

Approve April 15 and May 4 meeting summaries

MOTION: Phil moved to approve the [draft April 15 meeting minutes](#). Commissioner Jesson seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

MOTION: Phil moved to approve the [draft May 4 meeting summary](#). Commissioner Jesson seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Delegations of authority

MOTION: Commissioner Jesson moved that the Board delegate authority to Allison O'Toole consistent with the Board Delegation of Authority policy as documented in the proposed delegation form. Kathryn seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

County Update

Marti Fischbach of Dakota County was joined by Nicole Names and Paula Hoverud, both of Pope County, to present for the counties. Nicole explained that she was attending to represent

Region IV counties, which make up the west central part of the state. She reported on the continued need of counties for greater functionality within the MNsure system so that it can be fully utilized as a case management system. Nicole also noted there are sometimes unclear delineations of duties between the counties, MNsure, and DHS. She reported on the need to sync up the training for navigators and counties to ensure they are receiving the same information. Nicole stated that counties agree system modernization is essential, but need the tools to manage the needs of health care clients while modernization takes place. Board members discussed the need to develop a crisis fast-track. Commissioner Jesson announced that DHS has established a new DHS hotline to aid in the management of public program enrollee emergencies.

Nicole also requested the ability to put clients into the legacy systems on an as-needed basis. Commissioner Jesson explained that it is important to put consumers into the MNsure system whenever possible, as overall, it does a good job with eligibility. However, in the case of an emergency, when putting someone in a legacy system is the only way to get them the services they need, counties need to do that. She noted this is a continuing conversation.

Health Industry Advisory Committee liaison

Peter reported that Thompson Aderinkomi was the Board's liaison to this Advisory Committee and his term has come to an end. Phil Norrgard will attend the Advisory Committee's upcoming meeting next Thursday. He will do this in an interim role until the Board is at full complement.

Work Group updates

Finance Work Group – Tom reported the Finance Work Group will be meeting to prepare a Fiscal Year 2016 budget based on the three-year financial plan. It will present that budget at the June Board meeting. Peter noted he has temporarily taken himself off the Finance Work Group while the Board sits at five members.

Market Development Work Group – Kathryn reported the Work Group continues its work on both the letter to carriers concerning innovative plan design and on the process transparency map, the latter of which will have both a consumer-facing and an internal-facing version. These items are all in the rough draft stage. Additionally, the RFP on consumer tools and decision aids is currently open for submissions.

CEO report

Scott Leitz, CEO

Scott Leitz reported that since November 15, 2014, MNsure has enrolled over 250,000 individuals, including about 64,000 QHP enrollees.

Scott also reported that the Minnesota House and Senate have both approved a Health and Human Services bill and sent it to the Governor. This bill has several changes affecting MNsure, including:

- A requirement to publicly publish QHP rates no less than 30 days prior to the start of Open Enrollment.
- A repeal of MNsure's exemptions from statutes involving working with MN.IT, procurement, and certain provisions of the open meeting law.
- A change to MNsure's appeals process to align MNsure's process with the DHS process.
- A prohibition on MNsure offering any product lines beyond health insurance and dental plans.
- A requirement that the Commissioner of DHS seek a federal waiver for small employers to qualify for tax credits on plans purchased outside the exchange.
- A requirement that the Commissioner of Commerce seek a similar federal waiver to allow individuals to purchase plans outside the exchange with tax credits.
- The creation of a task force which will include a combination of commissioners and legislators and their appointees to study health care delivery and financing. This will include discussion of MNsure and MinnesotaCare, among other topics.

Scott noted that MNsure is continuing with its plans to expand its Broker Enrollment Center pilot to include 14 or so agencies. MNsure hosted a webinar on May 7 for interested organizations that included about 50 participants. MNsure is currently receiving proposals, which are due May 29 at 1 p.m.

Scott stated that MNsure is currently reviewing outreach and enrollment grant proposals and intends to announce grant recipients in early July. This will give grantees plenty of time to get going prior to the start of Open Enrollment.

Scott reported that MNsure is conducting outreach to graduating college students who may be rolling off of school-sponsored coverage or their parents' coverage very soon about the importance of health coverage.

IT update

Scott Peterson, MN.IT

Scott Peterson of MN.IT presented on slide 9 of the [discussion deck](#).

He noted the workplan now includes some additional items, denoted with crosses. Scott also noted that the MinnesotaCare Payment Process was originally scheduled as a two part release, but after further review, it was determined that it doesn't make sense to manage it this way and the releases have been combined into a single release.

Scott reported that MN.IT's next release, scheduled for May, is currently on track. Additionally, MN.IT's July release has been completely scoped and the work process is underway.

Board members asked questions about what the two reporting functionality releases, and about what metrics would be included in these releases.

Wrap up and any new business

Peter Benner, Board Chair

MOTION: Kathryn moved to grant Board Chair Peter Benner authority to develop a proposed workplan dealing with a search for a new, permanent MNsure CEO. Commissioner Jesson seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Board members thanked Scott Leitz for his leadership and service to MNsure.

Adjourn

Peter moved to adjourn. There were no objections and the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.