



MNsurance Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 1 – 3 p.m.

355 Randolph Avenue, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN, Mississippi Conference Room

Participants in attendance: Phil Norrgard – Chair, Kathy Sheran – Vice-Chair, Peter Benner, Commissioner Tony Lourey (via phone), Suyapa Miranda

Staff in attendance: Nate Clark, Aaron Sinner

Meeting Topics

Welcome

Phil Norrgard, Board Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Phil Norrgard, board chair.

Phil read MNsure's purpose: The purpose of MNsure 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.

Phil noted that Martha Eaves's and Edgardo Rodriguez's terms had expired and the governor had not yet appointed replacements.

Phil noted that Commissioner Tony Lourey was attending via phone.

Board Officer Elections

Phil Norrgard, Board Chair

Phil noted board chair and vice-chair one year terms expire at the board's second quarter meeting. He also noted that because he had served two consecutive terms as chair, he was ineligible for that role.

MOTION: Peter Benner nominated Senator Kathy Sheran as chair. Suyapa Miranda seconded. All were favor and the motion was approved.

Senator Sheran took the role of meeting chair.

MOTION: Suyapa nominated Peter Benner as vice-chair. Phil seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Public Comment

Hodan Guled, CEO of Briva Health, offered public comment on the work of her organization. She thanked MNsure for its partnership and support, and noted that Briva's mission was to increase health care access for all Minnesotans. Hodan noted that MNsure was Briva's biggest program and since its founding in 2013, Briva had assisted thousands of Minnesotans in the seven county metro area and in the St. Cloud area, as well as across the state via the assister portal. Hodan reported that currently, Briva assists 20,000-25,000 Minnesotans per year.

Hodan noted Briva Health focused in particular on serving hard-to-reach communities and those who faces barriers to enrollment. Hodan noted that Minnesota has large disparities in its uninsured population along racial lines, with white Minnesotans insured at higher rates than nonwhites. Additionally, the vast majority of Minnesota's uninsured live in the Twin Cities.

Senator Sheran thanked Hodan for the presentation and noted the importance of finding ways to reach underserved communities.

Administrative Items

Senator Kathy Sheran, Board Chair

Approve March 6 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Phil moved to approve the draft March 6, 2019 meeting minutes. Suyapa seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Navigator Compensation

Peter reported that the MNsure board sets per enrollment payments for navigators within the statutory limits set by the legislature. In the most recent legislative session, the legislature raised the statutory maximum for Medical Assistance payments from \$25 to \$70.

MOTION: Peter moved that in accordance with the recent change in state statute, effective July 1, 2019, the MNsure board set the payment rate for contracted navigator agencies to be:

- \$70 per successful determination of eligibility or enrollment in a qualified health plan.
- \$70 per successful determination of eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA), and
- \$70 per successful determination of eligibility for MinnesotaCare.

Phil seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

CEO Report

Nate Clark, CEO

Nate noted that MNsure had completed its move into a new building. He reported that MNsure's lease was set to expire at the end of May, and so in an effort to be good financial stewards of the organization's funding, MNsure leadership examined different lease options and signed a seven-year lease for the new space.

Nate reported that since November 1 and as of end of day March 3, MNsure had enrolled over 435,000 Minnesotans. This includes over 133,000 QHP sign-ups, over 247,000 Medical Assistance applicants and over 54,000 MinnesotaCare sign-ups.

Nate noted that the legislature had adjourned the previous month. He noted that in addition to authorizing an increase in per enrollee payments to navigators for Medical Assistance enrollees, the legislature renewed Minnesota's reinsurance program for an additional two years. One unintended consequence of reinsurance is that it lowers the amount of premium withhold revenue MNsure collects, and therefore the legislature allocated funding to MNsure that offset the financial losses caused by the program.

Nate also noted that the preliminary fiscal year 2020 budget the board had approved in early March came before the legislature's decision on reinsurance. Thus, MNsure finance staff would be working with the Finance Work Group to draft an updated budget for presentation to the full MNsure board at its July meeting.

Nate reported that the federal government had recently finalized a new rule regarding Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs), allowing these dollars to fund individual market health insurance premiums. He noted MNsure was still reviewing the rule, which creates some complicated interactions between HRA dollars and the federal tax credits MNsure administers. He also noted that while the timing of the new rule created some operational challenges, MNsure was committed to ensuring a smooth enrollment process for Minnesotans who would benefit from the rule.

Peter asked how big of a change this would represent for on-exchange individual market shoppers. Nate noted that the MNsure application currently screens for an affordable employer offer of coverage in making tax credit determinations, but does not ask questions that refer explicitly to these types of plans.

Phil asked when the rule was effective. Nate reported that it would apply to plan coverage beginning January 1, 2020. He noted CMS had promised support of state-based exchanges in operationalizing this new rule, but had not yet communicated the form that support would take.

Peter noted that Minnesota's reinsurance program would make individual market premiums more attractive than small group premiums for similarly graded health risk. Commissioner Lourey noted that this could be an even more complicated decision for employers exploring this option, because reinsurance was renewed for only two additional years.

Nate reported that the GetInsured project was currently testing operational procedures, then scheduled to finish renewals testing in July and testing from a consumer and caseworker perspective in August. MNsure would then train employees and other stakeholders in the new system in early to mid-September, with a mid-September launch of the new system.

Finally, Nate reported that open enrollment preparations were underway. MNsure was in the process of finalizing terms of its call center vendor contract for the upcoming open enrollment period and would continue to prioritize delivering high quality customer service to Minnesotans.

IT and Executive Steering Committee Update

Greg Poehling, MNIT

Greg Poehling of MNIT presented slide 11 of the [slide deck](#).

Greg reported that the spring release had successfully deployed. The Verify Lawful Presence project in the spring release had seen a slight delay due to a last minute change to the technical format requested by CMS, but it was deployed in an off-cycle release and was now complete.

Greg reported the summer release was successfully deployed the previous weekend. He noted that MNIT's deploy times are getting shorter. The summer release deploy started Sunday morning rather than Saturday night, and the system was back up by 6 p.m. Sunday evening. Greg noted he expected this to continue with future deploys, as well.

Greg noted that regarding the GetInsured project, he had previously reported a delay in the vendor's code delivery timeline. He noted the project had been moved into red status because it was not maintaining its original timeline. However, he reported that MNIT had revised its test plan and was driving to complete the current phase of testing by Friday, June 21. Greg reported there would be a code freeze on June 24, followed by project go/no-go meetings and decisions at both the project level and the executive level. A code merge was scheduled to begin June 29, assuming the project achieved a go decision. Greg noted he was optimistic, but cautious.

Phil asked if Greg's confidence in a go decision had increased or decreased. Greg reported that he had been optimistic at the March board meeting and was even more optimistic at this juncture.

Greg noted that while he didn't think it would be necessary, MNIT had a contingency plan prepared for implementation in advance of the open enrollment period.

New Business

Senator Kathy Sheran, Board Chair

Senator Sheran thanked Phil for his service as MNsure board chair over the previous two years and presented him with a Statement of Gratitude documenting MNsure's accomplishments during his tenure.

CEO Performance Evaluation

Senator Kathy Sheran, Board Chair

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), Senator Sheran moved the meeting into closed session to evaluate Nate Clark's performance as CEO at 2:22 p.m.

Closed Session – Summary

Participants in attendance: Senator Kathy Sheran – Chair, Peter Benner – Vice-Chair, Suyapa Miranda, Phil Norrgard

Staff in attendance: David Rowley

Senator Sheran asked Phil to lead the board conversation evaluating Nate Clark’s job performance. Board members discussed Nate’s very good performance and his eligibility for a performance-based salary increase of up to 1.44%.

MOTION: Phil moved to accept the exceptionally positive annual evaluation and to authorize a salary increase of 1.44%. Peter seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Open Session

Senator Sheran reconvened the meeting in open session at 2:38 p.m. She reported that the CEO performance evaluation was very positive and that the board took formal action to increase Nate’s salary to the top of the applicable pay range, resulting in a 1.44% increase.

Adjourn

Senator Sheran moved to adjourn. There were no objections, and the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.