



MNsurance Joint Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2015, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

UCare, 500 Stinson Boulevard NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Consumer and Small Employer Advisory Committee members in attendance: Jin Lee Palen – Chair, Mary Ellen Becker (via phone), Gladys Chuy, Remi Douah, Bentley Graves, Jama Mohamod, Claudette Moran, Bob Robbins, Angela Williams; Martha Eaves – Board Liaison, Edgardo Rodriguez – Board Liaison

Health Industry Advisory Committee members in attendance: Reuben Moore – Chair, Forrest Flint – Vice Chair, Kenneth Bence, Samuel Boadu, David Dziuk, Andy McCoy, Heidi Michaels Mathson, Chuck Sawyer, Jonathan Watson, Ghita Worcester; Kathryn Duevel – Board Liaison, Edgardo Rodriguez – Board Liaison

Consumer and Small Employer Advisory Committee members not in attendance: David Hilden, Edward McDonald, Hussein Sheikh

Health Industry Advisory Committee members not in attendance: Christopher Johnson, Harlan Johnson, Stacey Ko, Melissa Larson

Staff in attendance: Aaron Sinner – Board and Federal Relations Policy Specialist, Debby Dill – Board and Federal Relations Coordinator

Meeting Topics

Welcome & Introductions

Reuben Moore, HIAC Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 p.m. by Reuben Moore, chair of the Health Industry Advisory Committee. Reuben thanked UCare and Ghita Worcester for the use of their facilities.

Reuben introduced Sheila Riggs, DDS (UMN), and explained she would act as the moderator for this joint advisory committee meeting. Sheila asked everyone to go around and give one reason as to why they wanted to be on the committees. Members expressed their enthusiasm and passion for the work they do and the way it interfaces with MNsure.

Staff Update

Aaron Sinner and Debby Dill, MNsure

Aaron noted that members who had been part of the initial appointment in fall 2013 would have their terms expire this fall, though they are eligible to apply for a second term. He explained that

these members would need to complete a statement expressing their desire to serve a second term and commitment to serving out the entirety of that term, and that a brief email would suffice. Aaron also noted that members whose terms were not expiring would be required to complete a recommitment form stating their intent to serve out the remainder of their term.

Presentation on Actuarial Values

Kristi Bohn, MN Department of Commerce

Kathryn introduced Kristi Bohn of the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Kristi joined the State of Minnesota in 2014 and has a BS in Statistics and Biometry from Cornell University. She is also a fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

Kristi delivered a [presentation](#) on actuarial value under the ACA.

Members asked questions related to the essential health benefits categories required under the ACA. Kristi noted that as new research becomes available, HHS can change the list, and that states can realign their requirements for coverage, but only every few years and within a narrow set of rules.

Members also asked questions about the impact of the discontinuation of the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) on the individual market. Kristi noted that Minnesota was the state with the highest number of people in its high-risk pool, and that now, the individual market functions as a safety net for everyone.

Members also asked questions about the actuarial value of MinnesotaCare and its impact on the individual market. Kristi noted she didn't have access to data on MinnesotaCare utilization rates.

Kristi also noted that rates for 2016 would be made public on October 1, 2015.

Committees' Roles/Relationships with MNsure Board of Directors

Kathryn Duevel, Board liaison

Kathryn noted there had been recent conversations among advisory committee members and among board members regarding the relationship between the MNsure Board of Directors and the advisory committees. Kathryn stated that now that the IT system is maturing and making significant progress, both the board and the committees can take on more long-term strategic thinking. She reiterated that the board does listen to the advisory committees and that they will be giving more direction this year and asking for committee input. The board's Strategy Work Group will be developing a list of topics and questions it would like the advisory committees to consider. Additionally, the committees will continue to be welcome to react to things in the health care landscape that they see.

Reuben asked if the board had given any thought to whether it should have one advisory committee rather than two. Kathryn said that it had been discussed but at this point there isn't a recommendation to make that change. Kathryn said that if the committees felt strongly one way or the other, they should discuss it and make a recommendation.

Scenario Planning

Committee members

Due to the constraints of time, Reuben, Jin Palen, and Sheila decided to delay the bulk of the scenario planning until a future date. To debrief the presentation, Sheila asked everyone to share their “ah ha” moment.

Responses from committee members included:

- Curiosity about the illness burden of the MinnesotaCare population compared to the QHP-enrollee population
- Interest in the three premium stabilization programs, especially the two temporary ones
- Thoughts on the balance between carrier taxes and fees and the revenue brought in
- Observations as to how much year one and even year two were guesses about QHP enrollee utilization rates
- Comments on the need for better health literacy and communication in understanding actuarial value
- Concern over carrier losses in the previous year, suggesting carrier rates were too low
- Comments on the unique nature of MinnesotaCare and its impact on Minnesota’s health insurance landscape
- Observations on the disparity in the individual market and the small group market
- Observations that actuarial value is based around charges covered by a plan, not necessarily total expenses
- Thoughts on the lack of consumer choice available to MinnesotaCare enrollees
- Concern over volatility in the market and whether plans are being designed that put people first
- Observations that changes in the individual market could affect decisions made by the Health Care Financing Taskforce that could affect Minnesota’s health insurance landscape
- Comments that carriers are still forced to make a lot of guesses in setting rates; that there are a lot of opportunities right now in product design and product innovation, especially around wellness; and on the need to shift from an operational to a strategic frame of thinking

Members also commented on the disincentives to health plans to provide rich wellness benefits in the individual market due to consumers changing carriers each year, and on the high administrative costs in the individual market that will hopefully come down over time.

Ken Bence asked if the new HIAC board liaison had been decided. Kathryn reported that for now, she will serve as the HIAC liaison and Martha Eaves will serve as the CSEAC liaison,

while Edgardo Rodriguez would serve both advisory committees. The three would work together as a liaison team.

Jinny reported that she and Rueben believe a joint meeting in October would be helpful to follow up on the ideas presented at this September meeting. She advised committee members to watch their email for an update.

MOTION: Angela Williams moved to adjourn. Ken seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.