



Minutes Board of Directors Meeting February 18, 2016

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Health Plan was held in person at the offices of Hinckley, Allen & Snyder in Concord, New Hampshire on February 18, 2016.

The following individuals attended the meeting, including by phone as indicated because of scheduling challenges resulting from the exigencies of the matters before the Board:

Directors:

Beth Roberts (*by phone*)
David Ellis
Bruce King (*by phone*)
Lisa Guertin (*by phone*)
David Trudo (*by phone*)
Martha McLeod (*by phone*)
Brandy Millen (*by phone*)
Domenic Palmieri (*by phone*)
David Sky

Other Attendees:

J. Michael Degnan, Helms & Co.
John Hastings, Helms & Co.
Mark McCue, Esq., Hinckley Allen

Beth Roberts presided as Chair and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Ms. Ellis reviewed the meeting agenda and inquired whether the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes of the last Board meeting. Upon a motion by Bruce King and seconded by Martha McLeod, the Board unanimously:

VOTED: *To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held on December 16, 2015 in the form presented to the Board.*

Ms. Roberts then asked John Hastings to provide the financial report. Mr. Hastings reviewed the NHHP state high risk pool balance sheet and profit and loss statements for the period ended December 31, 2015. Mr. Hastings explained that the second Consumer Assistance Grant had been closed and a final report filed for approval. He then noted that the forecast of funds to be distributed at the end of the winding down period remains at \$2.623 Million.

Mr. Hastings concluded his report by noting that the auditors were completing their field work, and would have draft financials by mid-April so that the Finance Committee could review the financials at its May 5, 2016 meeting in preparation for approval by the Board at its annual meeting on June 9, 2016.

Ms. Roberts then asked Michael Degnan, NHHP Executive Director, to provide an update of the Consumer Assistance Grant (CAG) program. Mr. Degnan referred the Board to the materials in the meeting packet for specific listings and charts of the recent CAG activities, and provided an overview. He stated that 55,183 individuals enrolled in the New Hampshire Marketplace in the most recent open enrollment period. Because of the presidential primary elections, television ads were too expensive and not used for the latest enrollment effort. Mr. Degnan turned the Board's attention to the wind-down timeline on page 11 of the materials, noting that the only open item is the disposition of the Covering New Hampshire web-site. Mr. Degnan stated that NHHP would complete its CAG activities by June 30, 2016, and that no further CAG grants would be obtained. He did express the hope, however, that the Marketplace Assisters (MPA) would seek additional grants on their own.

Mr. Degnan then reviewed the MPA contract performance. He noted that Helms and PCG had reviewed the performance of the MPAs with respect to the third CAG, which performance ended December 31, 2015. Mr. Degnan stated that the performance of all the contractors was very good and he directed the Board's attention to the performance reviews included in the board meeting materials. He then requested the release of the performance holdbacks under such contracts totaling \$88,498.00. Following a brief discussion, and upon a motion by Ms. Roberts and seconded by Mr. King, the Board unanimously:

VOTED: *To authorize Helms & Company to release and distribute to each MPA contractor the compensation withholding due to it under its respective contract with respect to its performance under the third Consumer Assistance Grant, without any reduction or penalty for unsatisfactory performance, as supported by the performance evaluations.*

Ms. Roberts then asked Lisa Guertin to describe House Bill 1696, the so-called "Medicaid Expansion Re-authorization" bill. Ms. Guertin stated that the bill would extend the Health Protection Program for an additional two years, but that the gap between the cost to the State and the amount paid by the federal government (the "remainder amount") would be split between the hospitals and the health insurer carriers doing business in New Hampshire. The bill proposes that NHHP not be liquidated, that the remaining high risk pool reserves be transferred to the Health Protection Program and credited to the insurers' obligations, and that its assessment mechanism continue to be used for the insurers' share of the remainder amount. Mr. Degnan indicated that he had preliminary discussions with David Sky and an Anthem representative regarding the mechanics of the assessment process, but would await the final outcome of the legislation before making final plans.

Mr. King expressed concern that the risk pool assets were being transferred to the Health Protection Program and being credited to the insurers. Mark McCue, NHHP legal counsel, noted that the current statute requires all excess funds to be returned to the insurers, and that HB 1696 in essence effected an assignment by the carriers of their share of NHHP funds. Mr. King then noted that most New Hampshire hospitals use excess risk insurers who are subject to the assessment under RSA 404-G and who pass that cost onto the hospitals. As a result, Mr. King argued, the hospitals effectively would be paying more than half the remainder amount. Mr. Sky

responded that such policy and advocacy issues were beyond the purview of the NHHP Board, and Mr. King noted that he would seek an appropriate forum in which to raise his concerns.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Degnan,
Secretary *Pro Tem*