

## **HEALTH EXCHANGE ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Board Meeting**

#### **November 13, 2012 Minutes**

The first meeting of the Health Exchange Advisory Board was held November 13, 2012 at the New Hampshire Hospital Building in Concord, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order by Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny and Health and Human Services Commissioner Nicholas Toumpas at 1:10 p.m.

Ten members were present: Scott Baetz, Tim Soucy, Lisa Guertin, Beth Roberts, Lisa Morris, Nancy Clark, Raymond White, Lisa Kaplan Howe, Christine Alibrandi and Russ Grazier.

Two members were absent: Beryl McCormack and Sandra Ruka.

After welcoming the members of the newly formed board, Commissioner Sevigny and Commissioner Toumpas explained that at this first meeting they were there to listen and lay the groundwork for future meetings, and would welcome comments and ideas. Commissioner Sevigny briefly described the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), which was enacted in March of 2010, and explained his Department's role in advising the legislature and leadership of New Hampshire on public policy issues relating to the ACA. Commissioner Toumpas discussed his Department's care and concern for the 1.3 million citizens in the state of New Hampshire and stated his hope that implementation of the law would result in healthy decisions and better health care solutions in the long run.

Commissioner Sevigny introduced his staff, which included Tyler Brannen, Al Couture, Michael Wilkey and Jennifer Patterson. Commissioner Toumpas introduced Bill Baggeroer, DHHS Chief Information Officer.

Jennifer Patterson, Life, Accident and Health Legal Counsel at the Insurance Department, provided some additional background on the ACA and health benefit exchanges. She explained that the health exchanges were meant to be one-stop insurance marketplaces where people can also find out whether they qualify for Medicaid or insurance subsidies. For the states, there are choices to make, IT systems have to be ready, as well as issues relating to the roles of brokers (known as producers in New Hampshire) or Navigators in assisting people with their choices. Time is a huge factor as the Exchanges must be up and running in January 2014, and enrollment would have to start in October 2013.

Discussion continued on the three different types of Exchanges: federally-facilitated exchanges, state-based exchanges, and partnership exchanges. Because New Hampshire law currently prohibits a state-based exchange, the state will have a federally-facilitated exchange, which could potentially also include a partnership. Board members agreed that a more detailed '101' introductory explanation of

exchanges at the next meeting would be helpful. Things are changing daily and just last Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, US Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS) Secretary Sebelius sent out new guidelines for a partnership exchange. The Insurance Department provided FAQs, which will be posted on the NHID website along with other information relating to the board:  
[http://www.nh.gov/insurance/consumers/nhid\\_health\\_ex\\_advbrd.htm](http://www.nh.gov/insurance/consumers/nhid_health_ex_advbrd.htm).

Bill Baggeroer discussed the complexity of the information technology portion of the exchange, noting that Massachusetts has been operating a similar mechanism for some time, yet creating an exchange that complies with the ACA remains a long process for them. Bill's focus is on the Medicaid impact, which is a huge task. Commissioner Toumpas joined in the conversation and explained that there are two key Medicaid initiatives that are underway. One is the implementation of the managed care program and the other is the exploration of whether the state will opt into the ACA's expansion of Medicaid. And again stressed that we don't have a lot of time.

Commissioner Sevigny also mentioned that with the newly elected governor, senators and representatives we will need to see what direction they would like to go. Senator White mentioned that last year there was a group in the State House that was strongly opposed to the ACA. He described the history of HB 1297, which prohibits NH from establishing a state-based exchange. Senator White also discussed the role of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee with respect to health reform.

Commissioner Sevigny discussed the upcoming NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) meeting in Washington, D.C. and that the US DHHS holds individual meetings with each state and how his staff would be meeting with them. He also plans to speak with Teresa Miller, Director of Center of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, the section of US DHHS that oversees exchanges, while he is in Washington, D.C.

The meeting closed with the election of officers. Lisa Morris nominated and Russ Grazier seconded the nomination of Lisa Guertin and Scott Baetz as co-chairs for a one-year term. Both were elected by unanimous vote of the board. It was also explained that the co-chairs would step out of their leadership roles and be objective for their respective representation on this committee. Their duties will include setting up the agenda, working with NHID/HHS, and acting as facilitators during meetings. The members asked about the length of their terms on this Board. Jenny explained that the statute provides for staggered terms so members will be replaced at different times (four each year). Each member was nominated for a one-year, two-year or three-year term. For those who have a one-year term, next year (if they continued), they would be nominated for a full three-year term when the one-year term expires. A question was asked about the calendar year for this board – i.e., when would a new chair be elected each year. All agreed it would be from November to November.

Commissioner Sevigny and Commissioner Toumpas both offered the assistance of their staff and noted that the staff was prepared to work with the Advisory Board going forward.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> at from 8:30 to 10:30 and will be held at the NH Insurance Department , 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, NH. Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.