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## **NH Insurance Department's Network Adequacy Working Group to Meet July 24**

**Concord, NH** – On July 24, the Department will reconvene its Network Adequacy Working Group, designed to revise the current state rules that set out minimum standards for health care providers' networks associated with health insurance plans, including those offered on New Hampshire's federally operated Health Insurance Marketplace.

The Insurance Department hosted the group's inaugural meeting on April 23. In attendance were more than 20 participants representing a range of stakeholders, including consumers, health care providers, nonprofit health care advocates, and insurance companies. At the meeting, members of the Department described the process that will culminate in formal rulemaking, in which new guidelines surrounding network adequacy are written, feedback is solicited from the public during a hearing process, and the guidelines are submitted to the New Hampshire Legislature's Rules Committee for consideration. Should they be approved, they will become law. The Department's goal is to have the new standards in effect by next spring, so they will be applicable to 2016 health plans.

"We are re-examining every aspect of our current network adequacy standards," said New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. "The current rules are more than a decade old and don't necessarily reflect the significant recent changes in the world of health care delivery. Just as important, we wanted to take the opportunity to listen to New Hampshire residents on a topic they feel strongly about."

At the next meeting, members of the Insurance Department will present a conceptual framework for revised rules. The meeting will take place at 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 24, in the Brown Building, 129 Pleasant Street, Concord. Department staff will share and discuss potential revisions to the current network adequacy standards.

To ensure a seat at the meeting, please RSVP by emailing [Danielle.Barrick@ins.nh.gov](mailto:Danielle.Barrick@ins.nh.gov). Directions to the Brown Building may be found here: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/directions/brown.htm>.

The Department developed the current network adequacy rules in 2001 with help from a similar working group, composed of consumer representatives, hospitals, community clinics, physicians, nurses, and mental health providers, as well as all the major health carriers.

The presentation given at the April 23 meeting may be found on the Department's website, along with more information on the working group:  
[http://www.nh.gov/insurance/legal/nhid\\_nwadequacy\\_wg.htm](http://www.nh.gov/insurance/legal/nhid_nwadequacy_wg.htm).

The New Hampshire Insurance Department's mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance).