

OHA Advisory Committee Meeting
April 23, 2019
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 pm
Minutes

Meeting convened at 12:03 pm

Attendance: **Members via Phone** – Lynne Ide, Mark DeWaele, Steve Wanczyk-Karp
Members Absent – Sue Halpin, Dina Berlyn
(One Committee vacancy)
OHA Present – Ted Doolittle, Denise Ramoutar, Valerie Wyzykowski;
Sean King, Adam Prizio and Sherri Koss

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Motion to approve April 23, 2019 agenda; Mark DeWaele motioned to approve and Lynne Ide seconded; No discussion, no nays, motion carried

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve July 17, 2018 minutes; Mark DeWaele motioned to approve and Steve Wanczyk-Karp seconded; No discussion, no nays, motion carried
- Motion to approve January 29, 2019 minutes; Steven Wanczyk-Karp motioned to approve and Lynne Ide seconded; No discussion, no nays, motion carried

3. Committee Annual Evaluation

- Ted asks the Committee on how to proceed with the evaluation; what process does board wish to adopt.
- Mark thinks report is very good, comprehensive and learned a lot; did OHA really receive exactly 5,000 calls as stated on page 1, 3rd paragraph? – yes,
- On page 2, 2nd paragraph seems redundant from page 1, may want to reword or preface it
- Last issue on page 6, 2nd quote was worded incorrectly
- Committee commends OHA staff on the work; should board vote, should all signatories state that they are all in favor of the submission of the evaluation
- Committee asks OHA get agreement from all Committee members and report back to Committee when accomplished; then once Committee approval is secured, OHA staff will perform the necessary transmissions and postings

2. Administration Report

a) **Budget**

- Nothing to report at this time.
- Ted has no alarms at this point
- Sean shares that deficit to be relatively unchanged

b) **Personnel**

- CIR rep position is vacant and in the process of interviews
- If we get this position filled, it will be a full complement of people
- Ted introduces Demian's replacement, Adam Prizio

- Most of Adam's experience is in the state of New York
- Adam introduces and speaks of his experience
- Committee welcomes Adam and looks forward to meeting in person

3. Data Reports

- Ted reviews the data report for 2019 Q1
- AHCT/Coaching cases by number prove to be the bulk of our cases for this quarter
- Savings a little low; Ted feels in part that because we are a small state, and thus naturally will experience ebbs and flows due to small sample size
- Discussion regarding breaking down savings by type: Medical and Mental Health side
- Much savings from the AHCT side; Alex Myjak, who is OHA's AHCT expert, saves consumers approximately \$500,000 per quarter
- Savings per closed case bounces around; Ted looking at ways to better capture this information and eliminate fluctuations so we can better see trends in the data; maybe use median? Maybe take out outlier cases. Averages are probably not the best way to capture data
- AHCT had its own breakout section of the data report during ACA rollout period (2014-2016); now as discussed at last Committee meeting, this report does not show that
- Ted shows that per discussion at last Committee meeting, the "Other" category has diminished significantly; OHA made adjustments to better capture clinical categories
- Only top 10 medical clinical categories shown instead of top 17
- Mark DeWaele questions number of closed cases this quarter vs 1st quarter 2018, and comparison of savings flip flops, can we look at median, use a different metric to analyze the numbers; loves the graphs and sees a huge improvement in report
- Stephen Wanczyk-Karp comments as well
- Val responds that the spike in 2014 was due to the rollout of AHCT, the decline is due to decline of AHCT calls declining as in the beginning
- Ted asks if any of this is due to Legal Files changes? Val states savings are more defined; this will be reviewed as fields are changed. Updates allow us to be more specific in our savings and data
- Stephen Wanczyk-Karp asks if we can track enrollment size of carriers, and perhaps develop some data around which carriers have a higher rate of complaints at OHA; Ted to have further discussions with the OHA team.
- Ted shares that Australia has an annual report that captures this kind info comparing appeals/denial rates between carriers; OHA to see if we can mimic some of the items that Australia's annual insurance carrier report has; this Australian report is very consumer oriented.

4. Legislative & Policy Report

- Public Option Lynne Ide is working on this
- OHA working on High Deductible health plan reform; not sure if it will make it to the floor of the Senate, did make it through the Insurance Committee
- Sean shares that HB 5521, passed the house, in addition to ACA plans, preexisting conditions exclusion protections would be extended to short term duration plans (3 months or less); if it goes through will give consumers further protections.

5. Other Business

- Ted announces new Insurance Commissioner
- Sean/Ted met with Commissioner Mais and Deputy Commissioner Hershman
- CID informed at that meeting that the Governor maybe looking at centralizing back office services. If this goes through, some of OHA's back-office supports that we currently receive from the Insurance Department (*e.g.*, HR, IT, purchasing) could move to Dept. of Administrative Services or some other centralized state entity. Other than this briefing from CID, OHA has received no other information about centralizing such services.
- Lynne asks about the controversy on the Access Health HPBQ Board, subcommittee who designs plans is suggesting a move to a single silver plan in hopes of controlling cost of second lowest silver plan. The subcommittee has voted to recommend to the full AHCT board to allow only one silver plan, thereby maximizing the federal Advance Premium Tax Credit dollars flowing into the state
- The higher the cost is for silver plans the more tax credits come into the state
- AHCT has tried to control the cost and maximize the APTC's since it started; but AHCT deviated from that principle last year at the Board level (not committee level); subcommittee trying to return to the principle of maximizing federal dollars
- Trump Administration is accepting waiver proposals from states to change Exchange plans in certain ways; the higher the APTC is the more money is available to fund innovations in a waiver plan to CMS, because waiver applications must be budget-neutral to the federal government, so higher APTC coming into Connecticut gives the state more funding to plan with; OHA in support of maximizing the dollars coming into the state; the industry is not and want maximum flexibility.
- Lynne asks if there is a follow up meeting; Ted states it's Thursday, Sherri acknowledges it is on April 25, 2019.

Lynn Ide motioned to adjourn and Stephen Wanczyk-Karp seconded; no nays

Meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.

**The next meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, July 23, 2019
12:00 – 12:30 PM**