

Physician Practice Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2022

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
September 15, 2022	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Webinar and Conference Call

Participant Name and Attendance

Physician Practice Workgroup Members					
Rod Acosta		Lou Fiorillo		Atique Mirza	
Jean Ahn	X	Khuram Ghumman		Robin Gail Oshman	X
Rich Almada	X	Richard Goldstein	X	Theresa Riordan	
Marjorie Breen	X	Chris Hyers	X	Robert Russo	X
Ronald Ciesones	X	Dinesh Kapur	X	Michael Steinmetz	
Jeff Cohen	X	Alan Kaye	X	Lisa Trumble	X
Alan Coker	X	Steven Lazarus	X		
Nicole Demers	X	Leland McKenna	X		
Others Present					
Members Absent					
Rod Acosta		Atizue Mirza			
Lou Fiorillo		Theresa Riordan			
Khuram Ghumman		Michael Steinmetz			

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1	Call to order and motion to open meeting	Steven Lazarus
	The September scheduled meeting of the Physician Practice Workgroup was held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, via Zoom. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. Steven Lazarus presiding. Attendance taken by roll call by Ron Ciesones. Steven then welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to open the meeting. Chris Hyers made a motion to start the meeting and a second motion was followed by Leland McKenna. The meeting was officially opened.	
2	Approval of the August 11th, 2022, Meeting Minutes	Steven Lazarus
	Steven Lazarus asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the August 11, 2022, meeting. Marjorie Breen made a motion to approve the minutes and a second motion was followed by Alan Coker. The minutes from the August 11, 2022, meeting were officially approved.	
3	Public Comment	Steven Lazarus
	There was no public comment	
4	Presentations	Workgroup members
	Jean Ahn, a workgroup member who is Chief Strategy Officer at Nuvance Health provided a presentation entitled "Physician Practice Workgroup Considerations."	

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Below are some of the items discussed in the presentation:

- Nuvance Health (NH) is a multi-hospital healthcare system with 7 hospitals in Connecticut and New York.
- The NH mission is to improve lives of everyone and the system provides needed services that lose money such as emergency and trauma care, research and teaching, and specialty clinics to name a few.
- Hospitals nationally are experiencing negative financial margins due to high labor costs and lower outpatient activity.
- Hospital financial results are vastly different than those of well know insurers such as Humana and United Healthcare Group which are profitable.
- Private equity / investor backed capital played a role in approximately 75% of Provider Equity Deals in 2021.
- Pay-Vider companies such as Optum, which is owned by United Healthcare, is changing how care is delivered through vertical integration.
- Private equity acquisition of physician practices usually leads to increased spending and utilization of services.
- Some workgroup considerations were provided including those that hurt local community providers and those that concentrate market power which could lead to higher costs.
- The overall mission and intended purpose of the OHS workgroup was provided including a portion of the group’s charter.

<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Content/Health-Care-Cabinet/Physician-Practice-Workgroup/Meeting-Agendas>

A discussion related to the data in the presentation took place between members of the workgroup related to recruiting physicians, how to keep them as independent providers including the lessening of restrictive covenants, and the tax laws that seem to favor private equity. For more information, please see the meeting recording link on the September 15, 2022, Physician Practice Workgroup page noted above.

Steven Lazarus thanked everyone for their comments.

5	Next steps for the workgroup	Steven Lazarus
	Steven indicated that he and Ron Ciesones drafted a list of topics for the members to discuss and focus on so that everyone’s ideas could be consolidated into a report. We would like everyone’s input to draft suggestions on how to better improve oversight and regulation of physician groups in Connecticut. A link to the data will be provided to members in a few days.	

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	<p>A report on findings should be completed by the group in the coming months. The goal is to have a draft by mid-November, a final report by December 1st, and then have several members speak on the findings at the December Health Care Cabinet meeting. The group may be required to meet in between meetings to accomplish this goal.</p>		
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Adjourn	Steven Lazarus		
	<p>The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dinesh Kapur and a second motion was made by Robin Oshman. The motion passed with no one abstaining and the meeting was officially closed. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.</p>		