

OHA Advisory Committee Meeting
October 27, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 pm
Via Phone
Minutes

Meeting convened at 12:01 pm

Attendance: **Members in attendance** – Lynne Ide, Steve Wanczyk-Karp, Dina Berlyn, Susan Halpin
Members not in attendance - Mark DeWaele
OHA Staff – Ted Doolittle, Valerie Wyzkowski, Sean King, Denise Ramoutar and Sherri Koss

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Motion to approve October 27, 2020 agenda; Steve Wanczyk-Karp motioned to approve and Lynne Ide seconded; No discussion, no nays, motion carried unanimously
- Motion to approve July 28, 2020 minutes; Lynne Ide motioned to approve and Dina Berlyn seconded; No discussion, no nays, motion carried unanimously

2. Administration Report

a) **Budget**

- No updates at this time
- Some talk about cutting 10% across the board; OHA has not been asked to report anything

b) **Personnel**

- Stable, no new employees, no employees left the agency
- OHA has a new intern
- Ted's term expires in January 2021 and states he is ready to continue as head of the Agency
- Sean reviews process for appointment/reappointment to Healthcare Advocate position
 - Governor's office provides a letter to the OHA Advisory Board staff, at least 90 days in advance that the Healthcare Advocate term is expiring
 - Within 60 days of that the Advisory Board is required to convene to prepare a list of candidates up to 5, in ranked order choice, which can include the current Healthcare Advocate and submits their recommendations to the Governor's office
 - Within 60 days of receiving that list, Governor makes his selection and it is subject to the approval of the legislature
 - Board can meet in Executive Session if discussions involve Ted's performance
 - Sean will double check with FOI regarding this issue
- Ted provide a small historical on the position
 - Ted checked with Kevin Lembo and Victoria Veltri
 - Can put forward a list of one (Kevin Lembo)
 - Current Healthcare Advocate serves until the successor is appointed if the Governor or Legislature doesn't act
- Lynne Ide would like to have an Executive Session to have those discussions without staff and Ted. Ted agrees

3. Data Reports

- Ted reviews the data report with the committee, cases are very low, slight rebound
- Consumer savings pretty high even though cases low, a couple of whale-type cases
- No questions from Board members

4. COVID19 Update – Office Status

- Nothing new to report at this time
- Typically at least one person (mostly Ted) in the office to cover the mail and some administrative duties
- Laptops have been rolled out but still a few staff waiting
- Ted is considering extending the projected date for reopening in November or December, probably to a date in mid-2021

5. OHA Annual Evaluation for 2019

- This was due right when COVID was at peak, so now we are addressing this
- Sean states there needs to be a vote to approve
- Steve Wanczyk-Karp – yes
- Lynne Ide – yes (thanks staff for doing this), votes to approve evaluation as drafted pending agreement with Mark and Susan
- Dina Berlyn - yes
- Susan Halpin – yes
- Sherri to make sure Mark DeWaele gets a copy and has until the end of the week to make any changes.
- Dina motions to accept evaluation as written, Steve seconded
- If there are any changes from Mark DeWaele we will notify the rest of the Committee

6. Other Business

- Ted states that they audit every two years and it was our time. They do CID and OHA at the same time
- Ted shares that the auditors report came out and they wanted the compensatory time process typed up and we had already done that prior to the recommendation. There were some minor issues surrounding compensatory time
- Lynne thanks OHA for putting out resources/info for consumers who lost their insurance during COVID. Lynne asks if OHA has received complaints where consumers have received treatment in a hospital and who are uninsured, and are we receiving complaints about consumers being charged for COVID testing. Val responds that OHA is not seeing anything in the area that Lynne inquires about (uninsured). We have received around 30 cases regarding COVID issues. Sean shares that we've seen questions on the travel bans and how to visit families in skilled nursing facilities.
- Steve asks about telehealth, any impact on cases; Ted responds that we haven't seen those cases in a while. Sean shares that in the beginning carriers waived cost share for telehealth during initial phase of COVID but were not mandated to. That was for a short period of time and will be expiring soon.

Lynne Ide motioned to adjourn and Steve Wanczyk-Karp seconded; no nays; no discussion motion carries unanimously; Meeting adjourned at 12:34 pm.

**The next meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
12:00 – 12:30 PM**