

OHA Advisory Committee Meeting
May 10, 2022
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 pm
Via Teams
Minutes

Attendance: **Members in attendance:** Lynne Ide, Dina Berlyn, Mark DeWaele, Steve Wanczyk-Karp
Absent: Susan Halpin
OHA Staff: Ted Doolittle, Sean King, Adam Prizio, Denise Ramoutar, and Maria Zayas

Meeting convened at 12:02 pm

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda, Minutes and OHA Annual Evaluation

- Motion to approve May 10, 2022, agenda; Mark DeWaele motioned to approve, and Lynne Ide seconded; No discussion, no nays, motion carried unanimously
- Motion to approve January 25, 2021, minutes; Mark DeWaele motioned to approve, and Lynne Ide seconded; No discussion; no nays, motion carried unanimously
- Motion to approve OHA annual evaluation: Steve Wanczyk-Karp motioned to approve and Mark DeWaele seconded. Lynne Ide had some concerns on the evaluation as she thinks some comments were unnecessarily focused on 2020 and report should be for 2021. She thinks these 2020 comments were not relevant in 2021. Ted advised that we could take it back and look at those anomalies and recirculate if that's what the committee wants to do. Steve Wanczyk-Karp, Mark DeWaele and Dina Berlyn vote to approve the evaluation as it is. Lynne Ide abstained. Motion carries.

2. Administration Report

a) **Budget**

- Nothing new to report. Ted commented that legislature recently passed budget at end of session and staff will update the board with any changes pertinent to OHA.

b) **Personnel**

- Val has been retired for a bit now giving OHA the opportunity to put up a staff attorney 2 vacancy. We have received 26 resumes for the opening. As of right now we are asking a select group of those people to answer some writing prompts. We are currently waiting to get the writing prompts back, as soon as we get them, we will start to schedule interviews with the candidates and try to get somebody on board. Ted's hope that this will be within the next month or so.

c) **Other**

- Nothing

3. Data Reports

- Ted reviews data report.
 - Open and close cases are rebounding from the Covid situation a little bit which aligns with a lot of other areas of the healthcare economy.
 - We open about 1,000 cases for the quarter and saved over \$2 million of savings to our consumers. Savings per close cases was high with \$2,500. Everything else was consistent with reports we have done in the past.

- Mark DeWaele asked if we offer this data to the individual health carriers. Ted said we have not reported this data to them, but we can certainly discuss that for the future.
- Steve was wondering about the different clinical groups on the report. There is a slide that has psychologists, LCSW, LMFT but it didn't include professional counselors LPC. Sean responded that when we are creating some of these fields in our in our database, we're limited in the number of characters we can put in to identify the field. Licensed professional counselors would fall into that particular category when we are recording the clinical specialties. We just didn't have enough space to expand the list to include all those certifications, they are just all incorporated into that group.

4. COVID Update

- The office status is currently in the same environments that we have been since March 2020. Ted is in almost every day and occasionally joined by one or two people a couple days a week.
- The SEBAC contract for the state employees was approved and has a pretty robust work at home posture. The current order from the governor expires on July 1st, 2022. People have had the opportunity to apply to maintain their work at home status past July 1st. We will have to review each of those person's request individually, but Ted expects that after July 1st we are going to continue in the same posture as we have been. Now with the SEBAC contract approval looks like that's going to be a long-term situation. As a result, we are looking at different measures such as right now we pay rent, but we also pay for parking in the garage. We are looking into moving our garage parking for everybody from monthly pass to get tickets validated as the come in, only Ted will keep the monthly pass as he is the only one that goes to the office every day. If the numbers are accurate, it seems like we will be able to save the state about \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year if we move to validating people's parking when the come in.
- As far as the space we have a lease that doesn't expire for another few years.

5. Other

- At the next meeting we will give a fuller legislative report on what happened in the legislature that's important to OHA. One thing Ted would like to discuss is that last year we asked carriers voluntarily to enhance the already required notifications that they have to give about OHA in the claim denials and certain other documents. We didn't hear back from them. As a result, we went to the legislature and on our first try this was included as an add-on to one of the children's mental health bills specifically Section 71 of HB 5001. So, this gives OHA the opportunity to have on claim denials and some other documents a prominently placed call-out box in the front page and not back near the alternative languages with the call-out box containing language we approve and dictate. It has been Ted's mission for his second term to try to end OHA's status as the best-kept secret in state government and this is a good way to move towards that. We are going to spend the next few months planning on how to operationalize this and what the impact might be if we experience a spike in cases. It may put us in a strong position to go to the legislature and OPM to ask for additional positions. This is potentially transformational for OHA. We will be discussing updates about this in future meetings.

Mark DeWaele motioned to adjourn, and Steve Wanczyk-Karp seconded; meeting adjourned at 12:33 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26 at 12:00 PM

DRAFT