

NH Prescription Drug Affordability Board

In-person / Remote Hybrid Meeting

June 5, 2023 10:00 AM

NOTE: This meeting was recorded. All related documents (and a recording of the entire meeting) are available at: [New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services \(nh.gov\)](#)

CALL TO ORDER: Representative Gary Merchant, Chair, opened; introductions were made.

ATTENDING: In person: Representative Gary Merchant, Tom Sherman, Robert Woodward, Jason Aziz.

ABSENT: Senator Sharon Carson, Senator Cindy Rosenwald (after initially attending the first part of the meeting), Todd Fahey, William Marsh and James Murphy.

A quorum was established, following the elevation of both Robert Woodward and Jason Aziz to full members.

AGENDA REVIEW: Representative Gary Merchant reviewed the agenda with the Board and added the advisory council discussion at the end of the meeting.

PHARMACY BENEFITS (PBMs) PRESENTATION: Dr. Sal Morana presented a Powerpoint about the “Challenges and Opportunities” of PBMs. Some key points he spoke about were as follows. 1. HE discussed how the PBMs make money: member fee per month, the spread (the difference between what the pharmacy pays and the plan pays), rebates (they sometimes keep money that an audit doesn’t catch). 2. Contract negotiating is a good way to lower cost. 3. Overfilling is an issue, for example a fill for 90 days, especially if the employee leaves, causes a loss. 4. Advertising is the largest expense vs. research at the beginning stage. 5. He feels optimistic that “something rational”, as far as cost to patient and plans/employers, is inevitably in the works. *Finer details can be found in the presentation on the Board website, as noted above.

MEDICAID PRESCRIPTION EXPENDITURES PRESENTATION: Bob Woodward reviewed his data presentation. He presented observations on Medicaid expenditures spanning the years 2018-2022. He explained from where he retrieved his data, explaining it’s not quite representative of all New Hampshire residents. One of the takeaways was the example of the drug Humira being the one with the highest increase in expenditure: 139%. The Board had a short discussion following the presentation. Tom Sherman stated he felt the main takeaway, based on this presentation and the prior one, was that 35% of the driving factors related to the cost increase was the actual cost of the drug and the remaining percentage, that which could present savings, is the oversight. Tom would like to hear from the plans, and what they are doing to monitor utilization and cost. *Finer details of the presentation can be found on the Board website, as noted above.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 1 MEETING: Motion to accept the minutes by Bob Woodward, seconded by Tom Sherman, motion passed via roll call.

MOU - BOARD DISCUSSION: The Board discussed the major change in regards to general funds appropriation instead of funding from assessment fees. Tom Sherman moved to accept the MOU, as revised, with the contingency that HB 2 in regards to funding, as currently written, remains intact. Bob Woodward seconded. Motion passed via roll call. Tom Sherman made the motion to temporarily waive pending assessment fees, contingent upon passage of HB 2, with language that includes \$250,000 a year

of funding from general funds and the support of an executive director position, for at least 2 years. Seconded by Bob Woodward. Motion passed via roll call.

ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE: Tom Sherman discussed the aspect of the statute regarding the advisory council. He talked about their role, namely that they should not be considered as being in an oversight capacity. He discussed the content and structure of the proposed letter that will be sent to the different areas, as specified in the statute. The Board discussed the structure and wording of the advisory board and how they would like to see it change in the future.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE: Laurie Spring, of DHHS Human Resources, presented some updates on the status of the Executive Director position. She stated the position number will be established on or after July 1, followed by the posting in the state NH First system. For recruitment purposes, she suggested connecting with Victoria Davis, the DHHS talent acquisition manager. She discussed the process of applicant interviews. The Board discussed how to review applications confidentially. It was determined that the Board can establish a quorum for the purpose of a non-public meeting regarding personnel matters, which is exempt from the Right to Know law, which will ensure the confidentiality of the application and interview process. It was clarified that a quorum needs to be present/in-person.

FIRST DATA BANK UPDATE: It was noted that Bob Woodward will be working with UNH on the First Data Bank, and should have something prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

PDAB ANNUAL REPORT: The Board discussed the parameters and timeline expectations for the process and structure of the 2023 annual report, due by November 1.

DRUG COST MEDICAL BENEFIT: Jason Aziz presented slides entitled "CMS RxDC, An Alternative Source of Data for NH PDAB". Jason talked about how CMS RxDC could be used as an additional resource of data to fill in apparent gaps. He spoke about how the data reports are released annually, so we can expect to see the 2023 reports in July. He spoke about the benefits and limitations of the database, and the Board discussed how it could be used in the future. *Finer details can be found in the presentation on the Board website, as noted above.

NEXT MEETINGS: August 28th, September 25th and October 30th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Undebatable motion to adjourn the meeting made by Representative Gary Merchant.

Todd Fahey, Clerk, not present at meeting, however respectfully submitted.

Nancy T. Plourde, Recording Secretary