

NH Prescription Drug Affordability Board

In-person / Remote Hybrid Meeting

July 25, 2022 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, Senator Tom Sherman, Dr. Robert Woodward, Todd Fahey, Representative James Murphy; Virtually: Representative William Marsh, Senator Cindy Rosenwald.

A quorum was established.

ABSENT: Senator Sharon Carson.

AGENDA REVIEW: Representative Gary Merchant reviewed the agenda with the Board. Representative Merchant stated he wished to move the usage reports presentation up to the beginning of the meeting.

Representative Merchant introduced the new member of the Board, Dr. Robert Woodward, who proceeded to give an overview of his relevant experience.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MAY 23 MINUTES: Senator Rosenwald moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative William Marsh. Minutes approved via roll call.

UPDATE ON REVISED PRESCRIPTION DRUG USAGE REPORTS: Andrew Chalsma and Emily Kachanian, from DHHS, expanded upon last month's presentation of drug utilization and cost. They discussed looking at the cost trends over time and, if one drug has a noticeable change, taking a deeper dive into the specifics of that one drug. They talked about opening up the discussion around which measures the Board would like to track. Representative Merchant talked about the comparison of patient cost difference between Medicare and commercial plans; would like to look deeper into that. There was discussion around the data reflecting the out of pocket cost to the patient vs. overall cost, after rebates, discounts, etc. Andrew explained where the data comes from, which is what is reported by the insurance companies and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). He talked about how there is not a way to fully examine those details. It is not based on actual paid amount, rather the expected amount, or co-pay, based upon the member's benefit plan. A discussion followed around the specific goals of the Board, and what the best plan of action would be to accomplish them. Senator Tom Sherman asked about where the biologic drugs fall into this report, given how expensive they are. Andrew explained that the data is based upon therapeutic class. Andrew talked about different ways to get to that information, and how it could be broken down. Senator Sherman talked about the idea of affordability not only to the patient but to the state, wherein Medicaid costs should be considered. Senator Rosenwald talked about focusing on the drugs that are chronic use. Andrew discussed how the data will change once we are able to isolate the municipal plans from the commercial plans. He also reiterated that the strategy the Board decides to take, regarding the data analysis, will be very important moving forward. Representative Merchant asked for follow-up focusing on public payors.

UPDATE ON BOARD RULES: Attorney Robert Berry provided an update on the where the Rules are in the process. He stated he'd received all of the comments both from the public and the Office of Legislative

Services (OLS). He believes there is substantial work that needs to be done for a final draft, which will be ready for the next meeting of the Board, and ready for the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) in September; Allyson Zinno clarified that in order for the Rules to make it to JLCAR for September they need to be formally submitted by August 25. The Board discussed future dates based on this schedule. The next two meetings will be August 22 and September 26, both 10:00-12:00.

UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Attorney Berry outlined the current process for approval.

ASSESSMENT FEES AND BUDGET: Attorney Berry is waiting to hear back from the DHHS finance group for guidance on expediting the collection of assessment fees.

NCPA PRESENTATION: Matt Magner, representing the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), presented a powerpoint to the Board, with a short examination of the community pharmacy's role in addressing drug prices. Matt reviewed who makes up the Association, explaining the community pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare provider. He outlined the drug costs concerns at the pharmacy and potential solutions. He also discussed the idea of expanding the pharmacist's role. Following the presentation, Matt and the Board discussed the clawbacks and DIR fees in greater detail. A short discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Heidi Kroll asked Matt if he has an estimate of overpayments to the pharmacy. She also asked if there are potential rules in place for pharmacy transparency. Matt stated he will follow up.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator Tom Sherman made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted: Todd C. Fahey, Clerk

Nancy T. Plourde, Recording Secretary