

NH Prescription Drug Affordability Board

In-person / Remote Hybrid Meeting

August 28, 2023, 2:00 P.M.

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, Robert Woodward, Jason Aziz. Virtually: Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Representative James Murphy.

ABSENT: Senator Sharon Carson, Todd Fahey, William Marsh, Tom Sherman.

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 moved up Rob Berry's discussions to the beginning.

BOARD MEMBER REVIEW: Representative Merchant discussed the letter regarding the status of the current Board members.

APPROVE JUNE MEETING MINUTES: Bob Woodward made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes, seconded by Jason Aziz. Motion passed via roll call.

MOU UPDATE: Rob Berry updated the Board as to the status of the MOU. He stated that it has been fully executed as of June 23 and that there was no Governor and Council approval needed, due to the fact that there was no monetary aspect. Rob stated he believes the Board will need to revisit the MOU prior to its expiration in two years, in order to revise the cost allocation. He also told the Board that there is now an accounting unit in place for which to draw funds.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE: Rob Berry talked to the Board about the status of the Executive Director position. Since it is now posted, Rob is listed as the hiring manager, which means he will keep track of the applications and forward to the Board for review. He told the Board the job posting is also up on Indeed and LinkedIn. Bob Woodward commented he could also find further publications for it, within the academic arena.

ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE: Representative Merchant, Bob Woodward and Jason Aziz discussed each of their intended contributions to the upcoming Board annual report. Bob stated he has hit a bit of a roadblock in retrieving statistical data from DHHS, and is hoping for a resolution.

PRESENTATION: Jay Gupta and Mark Steitz presented a dual perspective, mainly centered around issues with PBMs and the causes of pharmaceutical waste. Finer details of the presentation can be found both in the video of the meeting and in the Powerpoint presentation posted on the Board website listed above.

LEGISLATION UPDATE: Representative Gary Merchant spoke briefly about the 2 bills that are currently retained in House Commerce. The main one involves the redundancy report that is expected to be presented by the Board. It is due on October 2024.

NEXT MEETINGS: The original posted date of September 25 for the next meeting needed to be changed to the 26th, due to Yom Kippur.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Representative Jess Edwards spoke about the redundancy report. He questioned why it appeared that it had been reduced to redundancy between the Board and the Insurance Department. He feels it should be expanded to any redundancies that may exist between the Board and other reporting agencies.

Curtis Barry and Heidi Kroll discussed their opposition to the perspectives presented by Jay Gupta and Mark Steitz. Curtis mentioned he would appreciate time be afforded him in the future to discuss at length with the Board. Heidi spoke mainly about her perspective on the white and brown bagging issue discussed in the presentation. She stated it came about as a response to the buy and bag and price gouging. She feels it brings process down as opposed to the markup found at the hospital level. A short discussion followed, in regards to the difference between cost and waste.

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