

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SILVER STATE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE
BOARD MEETING
AND ADOPTION OF 2018 PMPM FEES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017, 1:30 P.M.

-oOo-

MS. CLARK: Okay. Are we ready?

It's 1:30. And I'd like to welcome you to the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange monthly Board meeting.

I'm Valerie Clark. I'm the Vice Chair. Our Chair, Dr. Florence Jameson, is not able to be with us today, and so I'm taking her place.

So I'd like to call the meeting to order, if I could.

And can we do a roll call, please?

MS. KORBULIC: Yes. This is Heather Korbulic. I will do the roll call now.

Dr. Florence Jameson, absent, we know.

Vice Chair Valerie Clark?

MS. CLARK: Here.

MS. KORBULIC: Present. Ms. Lavonne Lewis?

MS. LEWIS: Here.

MS. KORBULIC: Ms. Angie Wilson?

1 Mr. Jonathan Johnson?
2 MR. JOHNSON: Here.
3 MS. KORBULIC: Mr. Jose Melendrez?
4 He will be joining us by phone. We'll make
5 sure to mark that when he joins.
6 Dr. Cook?
7 MR. COOK: Present.
8 MS. KORBULIC: Betsy Aiello?
9 MS. AIELLO: Present.
10 MS. KORBULIC: Commissioner Richardson?
11 Okay. And Debi Reynolds?
12 Okay. Madam Chair, we do have a quorum.
13 MS. CLARK: All right. Wonderful. Thank you,
14 Heather.
15 I'd like to first open it up to public comment
16 here in the north. Is there any public comment in the
17 north?
18 Okay. Seeing there is none, is there any
19 public comment in the south?
20 MS. KORBULIC: There is none.
21 MS. CLARK: Okay. Thank you.
22 Next on the agenda is the approval of the
23 minutes of the January 12, 2017 Board meeting.
24 Do we have a motion to approve?
25 MR. COOK: I wasn't here.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Jonathan Johnson.

2 MS. CLARK: Okay. Do we have a second?

3 MS. LEWIS: Lavonne Lewis. I second the
4 motion.

5 MS. CLARK: Okay. Any discussion?

6 All in favor, please say "aye."

7 (Board members said "aye.")

8 MS. CLARK: Any opposed?

9 And, then, are you abstaining?

10 MR. COOK: Okay. I was absent. So I can
11 abstain, yes.

12 MS. CLARK: Thank you. Thank you, Daniel.

13 Okay. Thank you very much.

14 On to the next agenda item, the Executive
15 Director's report and open enrollment summary. Take it
16 away, Heather.

17 MS. KORBULIC: Okay. Let's see. Well, the
18 Exchange has concluded its fourth open enrollment period
19 where we enrolled 89,061 consumers, which is nearly a
20 thousand more than we had last year. Even in a time of
21 tremendous uncertainty surrounding the future of the
22 Affordable Care Act, the Exchange was able to enroll
23 29,000 new consumers, and over 3,000 of those right in
24 the last two days of open enrollment.

25 We retained about 80 percent of our effectuated

1 consumer base from last year. And this has been, as you
2 all know, a very difficult year. So increasing our
3 enrollment in any way, shape or form represents a clear
4 and significant success for the Exchange.

5 We know that there will be old and new
6 challenges in the next several months and years. And
7 the Exchange staff is already working to ensure that we
8 maintain our current gains and continue to grow the
9 number of Nevadans that receive health insurance
10 coverage.

11 Over this open enrollment period, it's
12 important to note the several competing enrollment
13 challenges that the Exchange had, which included a
14 presidential election, a decrease in the broker and
15 agent enrollment force, and then a continued and steady
16 job growth in Nevada's improving economy.

17 Obviously, these challenges are not all
18 negative. However, combined they created a very complex
19 landscape for the Exchange to navigate. While the
20 current enrollment numbers represent a success within
21 this context, the uncertainty of the ACA will likely
22 remain an issue for at least the near future.

23 The presidential election and the subsequent
24 rhetoric that surrounds a repeal and replacement of the
25 ACA has caused lots of ripples of uncertainty throughout

1 the health insurance marketplace nationally. This
2 market uncertainty has left Nevada's consumers unsure
3 about the permanency of the ACA and the mandates
4 associated with it.

5 The Exchange's messaging was aggressive and
6 remained focused on the fact that the ACA's legal
7 framework and subsidy assistance remains available to
8 eligible Nevadans. However, consumer confusion
9 persisted throughout this open enrollment period.

10 As a result of carriers decreasing commissions
11 by significant margins, the Exchange also went into this
12 enrollment period with 80 percent fewer brokers and
13 agents than in the previous year. The loss of these
14 crucial partners statewide during the last year meant,
15 in essence, an extraordinary decrease in the Exchange's
16 ability to assist consumers and potential consumers.
17 The impact of this factor cannot be overstated.

18 Finally, Nevada experienced a significant job
19 growth in 2016, with the state on the whole recovering
20 all of the jobs that were lost in the 2008 recession.

21 So some percentage of these thousands of new
22 jobs within the Nevada economy definitely were offered
23 employer-based health insurance. An Exchange consumer
24 becoming employed and finding access to health insurance
25 through their employer is a positive story for Nevada's

1 economy. But, of course, this success competes directly
2 with the Exchange's enrollment efforts.

3 As you will hear later, the Exchange set some
4 new records with outreach and marketing efforts during
5 this enrollment period. Our comprehensive advertising
6 campaign made a total of 169 million impressions
7 statewide. And our concentrated outreach strategy
8 enabled us to attend 220 events, which is nearly five
9 times that which we did in 2015. We also joined 10
10 community groups, including seven chambers of commerce
11 and three associations.

12 I am proud of the work that our collective team
13 and staff, contractors, navigators, in-person assisters,
14 certificated application counselors, brokers, agents,
15 stakeholders and community partners have achieved.

16 In order to continue to build upon the
17 successes, the Exchange has already started our
18 assessment of our outreach and marketing successes along
19 with areas that need improvement.

20 We are developing a strategy based on data from
21 our enrollment period, analysis of our web and consumer
22 traffic, surveys with consumers in the north and south.

23 And at the end of the month we'll engage in an
24 outside -- excuse me -- we are engaging an outside firm
25 to conduct focus group research using representatives

1 from the target audiences of families, millennials,
2 50-plus and Hispanic, to document their firsthand
3 knowledge and opinions of both the health insurance and
4 the Nevada Health Link. These focus groups, which are
5 based on a series of specific questions that the
6 Exchange with Penna Powers will develop, are going to
7 inform our marketing and outreach efforts moving
8 forward.

9 Now that open enrollment is complete for this
10 year, the Exchange staff are going to remain engaged to
11 build upon the successes for Nevada's current and
12 potential enrollment. We're already working on a
13 comprehensive plan for 2018, including all our areas of
14 business: plan development, carrier engagement,
15 navigator and community partner engagement, broker and
16 agent engagement, and outreach and marketing.

17 While the federal politics and policies are
18 going to dictate the future of the ACA and subsidies
19 tied to the qualified health plans, our state remains
20 largely supportive of Nevadans and the benefits that
21 they enjoy as a result of the ACA.

22 The Exchange team is going to ensure that the
23 interests of Nevada and the health insurance consumers
24 remain front and center in an ongoing health care reform
25 dialogue at federal, state and local levels.

1 While the future of the ACA continues to be
2 debated, the uncertainty has created a charged
3 environment for our carriers, who continue to assess the
4 political and economic landscape. Carriers continue to
5 debate the merits of participating on Exchanges
6 throughout the country. And the Nevada Exchange is
7 working closely with our carriers and other partners and
8 monitoring national trends while we move forward with
9 the plan certification process for 2018.

10 The 79th Session of Nevada State Legislature
11 began on Monday, this past Monday, the 6th. And a
12 crucial new phase of advocacy and operations have begun
13 for the Exchange. We prepared for months for this
14 pivotal moment, monitoring BDRs, bill draft requests,
15 presenting our budget to the Legislature's Joint Finance
16 Committee on February -- or excuse me. Yeah, that's
17 coming up. We're presenting our budget to the Joint
18 Finance Committee on February 22nd. And we've remained
19 engaged with Legislative Counsel Bureau and maintaining
20 an awareness of the evolving landscape with our
21 lawmakers.

22 Personally, I have also sought out and received
23 multiple opportunities to engage with local, state and
24 federal officials and lawmakers, who are largely
25 supportive of our Exchange, our mission and our vision.

1 I think, it's most important for me to announce
2 that I am proud of the success achieved by the Exchange
3 and its partners during this last open enrollment
4 period. But none of that would have been possible
5 without the hard work and dedication of our Exchange's
6 small and mighty staff. As the landscape evolves,
7 Exchange staff will continue to remain nimble, flexible,
8 and we are committed to our mission of service to
9 Nevadans. And it's an honor to spend my days with this
10 staff, and each and every one of them.

11 And that is my Executive Director report. I'm
12 happy to take any questions.

13 MS. CLARK: Do we have any questions here?

14 That's an excellent report, Heather. Thank
15 you. And thank you so much for keeping us informed of
16 the legislative session. I know we're all anxious to
17 see how that proceeds, as well as we are on a national
18 level as well. So thank you very much.

19 Okay. If there's no questions of Heather,
20 we'll move on to the open enrollment marketing and
21 outreach report with Janel Davis.

22 MS. DAVIS: Thanks, Valerie.

23 Janel Davis, for the record.

24 This is a little bit repetitive of Heather's
25 sentiments, but I'll just go ahead and read my report.

1 Amidst the politically sensitive environment
2 and uncertain rhetoric over the last month we have
3 experienced with the health insurance marketplace, the
4 Nevada Exchange has survived its fourth open enrollment
5 season and done so with maintaining and exceeding our
6 consumer base. We operated with great poise and a
7 business as usual mentality. We encouraged Nevada
8 residents to seek in-person assistance and offered our
9 local support to navigate the enrollment process.

10 The Nevada Exchange enrolled about a thousand
11 more consumers, with a total of, previously stated,
12 89,061 enrollees for plan year 2017, which compares to
13 88,145 previously.

14 Since we began operations in 2013, each year
15 enrollment has increased. And while there continues to
16 be discussions about the new administration's goals for
17 the Affordable Care Act, our year-to-year increase shows
18 that there are many Nevadans who continue to recognize
19 the importance of health insurance.

20 Our enrollment numbers reflect our efforts in
21 getting our message out to Nevada consumers. I think,
22 people are more aware that having health insurance is
23 something they need to budget for and protect themselves
24 and their family. And Nevada Health Link is here to
25 help.

1 This enrollment, we kicked off our campaign
2 with the theme of "It's time to get connected." Our
3 objectives still remain to institutionalize the
4 Exchange, identify and target the uninsured populations
5 throughout Nevada, and leverage our content media,
6 public relations media, digital advertising, and
7 traditional marketing to educate our target audience
8 about the importance for coverage.

9 Throughout the campaign, we maintained
10 awareness through a multitude of messaging and
11 advertising, as well as shifted some of our messaging
12 from a general "Get connected" to more content-focused,
13 such as "Avoid the fine, find peace of mind."

14 We also continued to enforce the importance of
15 getting that in-person assistance and found that
16 consumers would rather speak to a professional than go
17 through the process online alone.

18 Our outreach team was especially busy this past
19 season due to an increase in events statewide. As
20 Heather stated, we attended 220 events in total, which
21 is a huge increase, compared to our 63 events last year.

22 We were able to collaborate outreach efforts
23 while also taking a more strategic approach to not only
24 attend more events, but analyze and research each event
25 to ensure we attended those events that reached our

1 target demographics.

2 Moreover, you will notice that our stakeholder
3 and membership accomplishments were an absolute success.

4 I will now introduce Patty Halabuk with Penna
5 Powers. She will review the details of our campaign
6 based on impressions, media coverage, outreach events,
7 and stakeholder involvement.

8 I truly believe that this year was our best
9 year yet. We were able to make tremendous inroads in
10 regard to outreach and stakeholder relationships.

11 Joining chambers and becoming members of community
12 organizations has helped institutionalize our brand and
13 assist in developing relationships with stakeholders as
14 well as expand our outreach efforts.

15 We will continue this process in the off-season
16 and look forward to new opportunities and will strive to
17 continue to offer affordable health plans for Nevada
18 consumers during this off-season as well into our next
19 open enrollment season.

20 Go ahead, Patty. Thank you.

21 MS. KORBULIC: Wait. Madam Chair, this is
22 Heather Korbulic. I just wanted to interrupt. I
23 believe that we have Jose on the phone.

24 MS. CLARK: Okay.

25 MS. KORBULIC: Jose, are you present now?

1 MR. MELENDREZ: Yes, I am.

2 MS. KORBULIC: All right.

3 MS. CLARK: Great.

4 MS. KORBULIC: Thank you. I will change the
5 record to reflect.

6 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

7 MS. HALABUK: Good afternoon. Patty Halabuk
8 with Penna Powers, for the record.

9 I'm going to briefly walk you through the deck,
10 which basically supports what both Heather and Janel
11 have said in terms of marketing.

12 On page one, you'll see the breakout of the
13 media impressions that Heather mentioned, over
14 169 million. And you can see the categories for each of
15 our advertising vehicles: online and digital, outdoor,
16 television, radio. We did a push campaign in January
17 where we fortified our advertising, being that it was
18 the last month of the campaign, and we know that a lot
19 of people wait for the end. And some print.

20 You can see, as planned, online and digital was
21 the main component. It's been a driving force for the
22 last two open enrollments, and it's extremely measurable
23 for us. We're able to analyze and receive a lot of
24 metrics that help us plan for future campaigns and
25 analyze where people are spending their time on the

1 website as well.

2 So it's a great tool, great mechanism. A lot
3 of our target audiences spend their time there,
4 primarily the millennials, as well as the 50-plus group.
5 And we will continue to use it and gather more
6 information and work with the Exchange moving forward so
7 we can hone our marketing messaging moving forward.

8 On page two, you'll see a graph that shows the
9 results of folks processed from our three milestone
10 events. We had a kickoff event on November 1st. We had
11 another event on December 15th. And our closeout event
12 took place on January 29th. We had simultaneous events
13 both in the north and south.

14 You can see that we signed up more folks,
15 processed more folks in the south than we did in the
16 north, which generally is the case. However,
17 January 29th event, it was close to even.

18 You'll also see that the December 15 and
19 January 29 events, we processed more folks. And we
20 attribute some of that to the fact that we fortified the
21 advertising for both of those milestone events. So
22 there was more awareness out there.

23 On page three, echoing what both Janel and
24 Heather alluded to, our outreach capture, we attended a
25 significant more, higher number of events this year.

1 And we've broken them out here so you can see where the
2 events took place, by northern and southern Nevada
3 regions, Hispanic events, rural events, and more
4 culturally diverse events.

5 We made some good inroads all the way across
6 the board. And we feel that we had more opportunities
7 because of our stakeholder and partnership alliances.
8 It opened more doors for us. And we are going to
9 continue in that effort, both in the off-season and into
10 next open enrollment.

11 And that was a good segue for page four. You
12 can see our accomplishments for that membership and
13 stakeholder area, as Heather mentioned. We broke them
14 out by memberships, associations, and some of our new
15 partnerships and marketing sponsorships.

16 On page five, you'll see a little recap of our
17 PR and media relations. We continue to work closely
18 with the Exchange in that regard to create a platform
19 that is proactive, so that we can ensure we create a
20 positive light for both the Exchange and Nevada Health
21 Link. It's worked quite well for us now for two
22 seasons.

23 As Heather alluded to, and Janel, it was kind
24 of a challenging year. We had a lot on our plate. So
25 we remain nimble and reactive when we need to be. But

1 we're proud of the success we've had. And we will
2 continue in the same vein to work closely together.

3 And subsequent pages six through eight, you'll
4 just see a list of some of the media coverage we
5 garnered just in January alone.

6 And then, finally, to wrap up, on page nine,
7 just to give you, again, a brief summary of some of the
8 things we're currently working for.

9 As Heather mentioned, the focus group research
10 that will be taking place at the end of February.

11 Also, ongoing outreach events. Andres Ramirez
12 and his team continue to work hard. And we've got
13 several events going in February already, as well as
14 March and subsequent months.

15 Social media will continue on as well. We want
16 to continue talking to our audience and as well as the
17 development of our stakeholders and partnerships.

18 And, also, customer testimonials. We started a
19 little of this last year, and we're mining into that and
20 making a concerted effort to reach out. We want to hear
21 folks' stories, and we want to turn those around to
22 motion opportunities, because that's great exposure, and
23 it allows our audiences to identify with those folks.

24 So all that is in the works, as well as talking
25 about our off-season campaign. All these components

1 will come together and factor into our off-season
2 campaign. It will allow us to ensure our messaging is
3 where it needs to be and we're talking to the folks we
4 need to talk to, and allow us to create a really strong
5 off-season campaign that will segue eventually into the
6 next open enrollment.

7 And that's the marketing wrap-up. Thank you.

8 MS. CLARK: Thank you so much, Patty.

9 Does anyone have any questions at all?

10 I just had a quick question.

11 MR. MELENDREZ: This is Jose.

12 MS. CLARK: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead. Go
13 ahead, Jose.

14 MR. MELENDREZ: Just quickly, this is great. I
15 love seeing all the outreach and all that. I just had a
16 quick question. Now that we have these memberships to
17 all the chambers, and I'm assuming or I'm hoping that --
18 are we going to be asking for an opportunity to maybe
19 formally present at some of those chamber luncheons?

20 I know, at the Latin Chamber, we're constantly
21 open to that opportunity. And so anything I can do on
22 my side to help facilitate some of that, so that the
23 Exchange would get some, you know, some real recognition
24 and then, also, opportunity to present at these
25 luncheons.

1 MS. KORBULIC: Great. I'll take that. This is
2 Heather Korbulic for the record.

3 Yes, thank you, Jose. That would be great to
4 work on that speaking opportunity. And there have been
5 several opportunities. That's why I'm in Vegas actually
6 right now, is to speak at a health care -- oh, gosh, I
7 wish I remembered the whole spiel about where it is
8 tomorrow, but it's related to a metro chamber.

9 MR. MELENDREZ: Okay.

10 MS. KORBULIC: So there are lots of
11 opportunities that have popped up as a result of our
12 memberships.

13 MR. MELENDREZ: Very good. Thank you.

14 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Jose.

15 Patty, I just had a quick question. On page
16 five, I just was curious what that -- at the very
17 bottom, there's a rectangle; it says "Total Open
18 Enrollment Earned PR Value"; can you explain what that
19 is or means?

20 MS. HALABUK: Sure, absolutely.

21 So, basically, PR value represents if you were
22 to buy -- so PR value is unpurchased advertising or
23 exposure. It's exposure to your brand. It's a mention
24 of your brand. So. And that's as a result of being out
25 in the community, press releases, doing interviews, that

1 sort of thing, new stories.

2 So if you combine all the exposure that the
3 Exchange got over the open enrollment time period, it
4 reflects a total of over \$2 million, specifically
5 \$2,100,921.

6 And the second line, "If Purchased"; so if you
7 did a comparison where you actually bought advertising
8 and paid for similar space, it's equivalent to a paid
9 amount of \$722,669.

10 MS. CLARK: I see. Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. HALABUK: You're welcome.

12 MS. CLARK: Okay. Any other questions?

13 All righty. Moving on to -- this is a possible
14 action item, the adoption of the 2018 per member per
15 month fees to be charged to insurers.

16 Ryan, take it away.

17 MR. HIGH: Good morning, Vice Chair, members of
18 the Board. For the record, my name is Ryan High, Chief
19 Operations Officer for the Silver State Health Insurance
20 Exchange.

21 Today I'm going to present item VI, adoption of
22 the 2018 PMPM fees. And to set some historical context,
23 on February 11, 2016, the Exchange Board voted to set
24 the PMPM fees charged to insurance carriers
25 participating on the Exchange for calendar year 2017 at

1 3.15 percent for QHPs and 3.15 percent for standalone
2 dental plans.

3 Today staff proposes to set the PMPM fee for
4 calendar year 2018 unchanged at 3.15 percent of the
5 presubsidized premium generated by QHPs and standalone
6 dental plans sold through the Exchange.

7 The proposed fee is based upon a combination of
8 actual and projected numbers. Actual premiums reported
9 to the Exchange for plan year 2016 are the foundation
10 for our proposed rate.

11 For the past three years, the Exchange has
12 relied upon federal technology and infrastructure
13 through healthcare.gov to assist in the enrollment of
14 our consumers.

15 For plan year 2017, CMS issued a Notice of
16 Benefit and Payment Parameters which set user fees for
17 state-based marketplaces, which utilized the federal
18 eligibility and enrollment infrastructure, at 1.5
19 percent of the presubsidized premium generated by QHPs
20 and standalone dental plans sold to the Exchange.

21 For plan year 2018, CMS has set the user fee at
22 2 percent.

23 Staff has reviewed our legislatively-approved
24 budget, existing and protected cash reserves, the most
25 recent enrollment figures, historical year-to-year

1 premium adjustments, and anticipated expenses to develop
2 the recommended fee of 3.15 percent of the presubsidized
3 premium generated by QHPs and standalone dental plans
4 sold to the Exchange.

5 We believe remaining at 3.15 percent for
6 another year allows the Exchange to not simply survive,
7 but to continue its important state-based work at
8 unchanged fees from last year.

9 So at this time, unless there are any
10 questions, I'd like to conclude my presentation and turn
11 it back over to the Board for discussion and/or a vote.

12 MS. CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much, Ryan.
13 We appreciate that. And those are encouraging numbers.

14 Is there any questions, any comments, or would
15 anyone like to make a motion to approve the 3.15?

16 MS. LEWIS: This is Lavonne Lewis, and I'll
17 make a motion to approve after I ask my question. And
18 it's really just clarification. I am sure that this is
19 what you're saying, that with that 3.15 percent per
20 member per month payment, we will be able to afford a
21 half a percent increase from CMS. Is that correct?

22 MR. HIGH: That is correct.

23 MS. LEWIS: Okay. Then, I make a motion to
24 approve the proposed rate.

25 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

1 Do we have a second?

2 MR. MELENDREZ: This is Jose. I second.

3 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Jose.

4 Is there any other discussion?

5 Okay. All those in favor, please say "aye."

6 (Board members said "aye.")

7 MS. CLARK: Any opposed?

8 Okay. The motion passes. Thank you very much.

9 The next item on the agenda is an Affordable

10 Care Act status report.

11 Heather, thank you.

12 MS. KORBULIC: I will gladly get into the juicy

13 bits of the Affordable Care Act status report. But I

14 did want to -- I neglected earlier to introduce two new

15 staff members at the Exchange.

16 And here in the Las Vegas office, we have

17 Rebecca Lomazzo, who has joined us after spending the

18 last eight years managing a State Farm agency and is, or

19 was, until she joined the Exchange, a licensed broker

20 agent.

21 And, let's see, we also have Danielle Andersen,

22 who is in our Carson City office, who's joined us as our

23 new Grants and Project Analyst.

24 And we are thrilled about these two new

25 additions.

1 So that being said, let me get into the
2 Affordable Care Act.

3 This is a hot topic, obviously, and something
4 that I spend a lot of time paying attention to, and
5 watching and reading, and my poor staff sees all sorts
6 of links all the time, at 2:00 a.m., 1:00 a.m.,
7 sometimes 4:00 a.m.

8 So, the debate surrounding the repeal and
9 replacement of the ACA has remained a primary focus
10 point throughout the Trump -- President Trump's first
11 month in office. And while his campaign has promised
12 some -- or excuse me -- his campaign promises remained a
13 real rhetoric, rhetorical focus, actual efforts to
14 repeal and replace the law have slowed over the last two
15 weeks.

16 Currently, the uncertainty about the future of
17 the ACA in part is due to disagreements on the timing
18 and the policy prescriptions associated with potential
19 repeal and replacement. Many federal lawmakers --

20 Hello? Okay. Back.

21 Many different federal lawmakers, industry
22 organizations, carriers and consumer advocates argue
23 that a repeal could not happen prior to a replacement
24 plan being developed and established in law.

25 Congressional majority leadership continues to

1 assert that they do not plan to disrupt service to the
2 22 million Americans currently covered under the ACA.
3 However, they have still not coalesced around a plan for
4 replacement.

5 Majority leadership continues to focus on a
6 reconciliation bill that was modeled off of the HR 3762,
7 which was first introduced in October of 2015. And
8 that, basically, excuse me, that bill, basically,
9 repeals the expansion of Medicaid along with the
10 subsidies that assist low- and middle-class families to
11 obtain QHPs.

12 It also includes a transition period of two to
13 four years, whereby those subsidies continue and the ACA
14 remains until a replacement plan is developed,
15 legislated and implemented, so as not to disrupt the
16 coverage for consumers who are currently receiving
17 benefits.

18 That bill, HR 3762, was vetoed by President
19 Obama in January of 2016.

20 At the same time that the efforts to repeal and
21 replace are being debated, a new movement to repeal and
22 repair has begun to gain momentum among many of the
23 Republican majority. Repeal and repair appears to be a
24 less aligned with a full replacement of the ACA with a
25 new insurance model and proposes instead to repair areas

1 under the current law to improve the marketplace.

2 With respect to this new approach to changing
3 the ACA, Congressman Greg Walden, who is Chairman of the
4 Energy and Commerce Committee, stated, "We're going to
5 take time to get this right."

6 Other federal and state lawmakers, especially
7 those who currently, who are currently in the majority,
8 have discussed other potential changes to the ACA that
9 could impact the final legislation. These include
10 providing immediate market stabilization by loosening
11 age-rate banding, bands, ensuring patients with
12 preexisting conditions are not denied coverage,
13 requiring enrollment verification for special enrollment
14 periods, and reducing the ACA's 90-day grace period.

15 These efforts are designed to stabilize
16 struggling Exchanges while healthcare reform continues
17 to be evaluated and debated.

18 Insurance carriers concerned about the
19 uncertainty and instability of the ACA have begun to
20 push federal lawmakers to provide more clarity on the
21 future of the law.

22 Aetna and Anthem's CEOs have made public
23 statements offering no guarantees on their participation
24 in the marketplace for plan year 2018 without insight
25 into the future of Health Exchanges. Should those

1 carriers decide not to participate in Exchanges in plan
2 year 2018, there will be immediate implications for the
3 Nevada Health Link.

4 Finally, there have been many, or there have
5 also been early efforts from the Executive Branch that
6 have implications on the current and future status of
7 the ACA.

8 On his first day in office, President Trump
9 signed an executive order titled "Minimizing the
10 Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable
11 Care Act Pending Repeal." The order states, "In the
12 meantime, pending such repeal, it is imperative for
13 executive branch to ensure that the law is being
14 efficiently implemented, take all actions consistent
15 with law to minimize the unwarranted economic and
16 regulatory burdens of the Act, and prepare to afford
17 states more flexibility and control to create a more
18 free and open health care market."

19 Many health policy experts remain confused
20 about what this order does. However, most agree that it
21 does nothing to change the legal framework of the ACA.

22 Substantive changes to the ACA are going to
23 have to result from federal lawmakers and parliamentary
24 procedures.

25 In short, the current uncertainty about the

1 future of the ACA is persisting. And while the federal
2 lawmakers and policymakers appear to remain intent upon
3 changing the current ACA system, they remain divided on
4 what direction their final policy will go.

5 At the very least, this uncertainty has an
6 immediate impact on the Silver State Health Insurance
7 Exchange, on you are Exchange's ability to retain
8 existing consumers and develop new relationships with
9 carriers.

10 And I am happy to take any questions about this
11 and the future of the ACA.

12 MS. CLARK: Thank you so much, Heather.

13 Do we have any questions?

14 It's a great report. And we are all watching
15 very intently. And I know. I will be in Washington
16 D.C. myself next week working on these issues. So,
17 hopefully, we'll know more soon.

18 And, I believe, the HHS secretary will probably
19 be sworn in this week, if I'm not mistaken.

20 Very good.

21 MS. KORBULIC: Sounds like tonight or tomorrow.

22 MS. CLARK: Okay. And then, hopefully, we can
23 get on our way with some repairing.

24 All right. Thanks so much.

25 The next item on the agenda is discussion and

1 possible action regarding dates, times, and agenda items
2 for future meetings.

3 Does anyone have any thoughts or ideas or
4 topics that they would like to see on the agenda in the
5 next coming months?

6 Other than the obvious. Again, I think, we'll
7 just do ACA updates every Board meeting until we're all
8 clear, I would imagine.

9 MS. KORBULIC: No problem.

10 MS. CLARK: Local Nevada legislative updates as
11 well, I would assume.

12 Anything else?

13 Okay. All right.

14 MR. JOHNSON: This is Jonathan Johnson.

15 MS. CLARK: Oh, Jonathan, yes. Thank you.

16 MR. JOHNSON: I think, along those lines, if we
17 could have an update as soon as we know what's happening
18 with the carriers for plan year 2018.

19 MS. CLARK: M-hm (affirmative).

20 MR. JOHNSON: If there's any developments on
21 that, to have that somewhere on the agenda at some
22 point.

23 MS. CLARK: Thanks, Jonathan.

24 MS. KORBULIC: Okay.

25 MS. CLARK: That's great. Yeah, we're --

1 that's a very important part of the puzzle.

2 Okay. If we have no further comments or topics
3 for discussion, I will open it up for public comment.

4 Is there any public comment here in the north?

5 Okay. Seeing none, is there any public comment
6 in the south?

7 MS. KORBULIC: No, there is not.

8 MS. CLARK: Okay. Well, do we -- I'd like to
9 have a motion to adjourn.

10 MR. JOHNSON: I move we adjourn.

11 MS. CLARK: I second it.

12 Okay. Thanks, Jonathan.

13 All right. Thank you very much for coming,
14 everyone. And stay out of the weather, if you can.

15 -oOo-

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25