



Joe Lombardo
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Silver State Health Insurance Exchange (SSHIX) Board Meeting

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

No Quorum Present – No actions taken, discussion items only.

Meeting Location:

Zoom and Teleconference, or 2310 South Carson St., Suite 3A, Carson City, NV 89701

Members Present

Zoom:

Valerie Clark
Jonathan Johnson
Dr. Sarah Friedman
Todd Rich (Non-Voting, Ex-Officio)
Scott Kipper (Non-Voting, Ex-Officio)
Stacie Weeks (Non-Voting, Ex-Officio)
Jenny Helton (Non-Voting, Ex-Officio)

Members Absent

Lavonne Lewis
Quincy Branch
Amber Torres
Sam Kumar

Staff Members Assisting

Russell Cook, SSHIX
Tiffany Davis, SSHIX
Kaitlyn Blagen, SSHIX
Kassie Fuentes, SSHIX
Radhika Kunnel, DAG

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, Announcements

Chair Valerie Clark called the 1:30 p.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken by Tiffany Davis; no quorum was noted.

II. Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Approval of the minutes of the September 17, 2024 and October 15, 2024 Board Meeting. For Possible Action.

Agenda item tabled due to lack of quorum.

IV. Executive Director Report

a. General Comments

Executive Director Russell Cook reported that in the two-month interim the primary focus of the Exchange has been on ensuring a successful open enrollment period for plan year 2025.

b. Four Month Look-Ahead

Executive Director Cook noted that applications for coverage under the plan year 2025 open enrollment period must be submitted by midnight on January 15, 2025, but will have through January 21, 2025, to submit plan selections and secure coverage to begin on February 2, 2025. Director Cook added that the special enrollment period will be January 16, 2025, through October 31, 2025.

Director Cook spoke next about the 2025 biennial legislative session to begin on February 3, 2025, noting that the Exchange's top priority will be defending its agency budget for fiscal year 2026 and 2027 and the identification and subsequent tracking of proposed legislation that might have a fiscal or operational impact on the Exchange.

Director Cook stated that a previous CMS rule change to include DACA recipients in ACA coverage was met with injunctions in North Dakota, to which the judge barred the DACA recipients in those states from enrolling in the ACA coverage. However, Director Cook said that this does not affect Nevada DACA recipients at the time, but it will continue to be closely monitored.

Director Cook explained that there had been discussion about whether the Equifax VCI service would be renewed, but ultimately the Exchange decided to continue the service plan throughout the plan year 2025 open enrollment, at which time the Exchange would assess the value the VCI service provides.

Director Cook's next point of discussion was potential adjustments to the monthly carrier premium fee. Director Cook noted that a similar analysis to the one done in 2024 would be completed and presented at the February board meeting. Director Cook also stated that the agenda would be structured to allow the board to consider the continued use of VCI before the recommendations for the CPF, as one would impact the other.

Director Cook lastly spoke on the recent IRS and LCB audits.

c. Open Enrollment 2025

Director Cook explained that following the close of week 7, the plan year 2025 OEP is the Exchange's highest performing to date. Director Cook also informed the board that the Exchange is offering extended call center hours as in prior years, but the decision was made to discontinue Sunday hours.

d. Agency Budget

Director Cook stated that the governor's recommended budget for state fiscal years 2026 and 2027 has not been officially released, but the Exchange's agency request budget reflected an average increase of 8.3% versus the current biennium. Director Cook noted that this budget would be contingent upon continued use of the Equifax's VCI service and two new requested staff positions.

e. RFP for Technology Platform and Call Center

Director Cook explained that due to administrative delays, the Exchange was unable to deliver the proposed RFP to the state purchasing agency until November 26th, and the RFP remains under review from state purchasing and the Exchange's Deputy Attorney General.

f. Tribal Partnership Program

Director Cook informed the board that recently there had been a variety of communication and outreach activities presented to Director Stacey Montooth at the Nevada Department of Native American Affairs with the goal of authentically representing Native Americans in Nevada through compelling imagery in marketing materials, to include partnering with a skilled Native American photographer who understands tribal communities and their culture. Director Cook said it was also proposed to sponsor community events to create a mutually beneficial partnership and partnering with members of Nevada's tribes to translate fact sheets, resource guides, and future publication into native languages to ensure that they are accessible to all. Director Cook said that this collaboration led to the opportunity to sponsor the Nevada's Tribe's Day legislative lunch on February 11th, which will feature a presentation from the Exchange along with a staffed booth with resource guides available.

g. Automatic Voter Registration

Director Cook explained that the Exchange anticipates the system will be online in time to satisfy the statutory implementation deadline of January 1, 2025.

h. Policy for Vision Carrier Partnerships

Director Cook noted that the proposed plan would be to administer a framework within which the Board can discuss and vote on what is considered to be the critical decision points. Director Cook explained that the Exchange would propose questions for the board members to consider before the next meeting.

i. Personnel Updates

Director Cook updated the board on two key vacancies on its policy team that were filled in November, one by an existing staff member. Director Cook also noted that the Exchange has two remaining vacancies that are anticipated to be filled in January of 2025, and those being the plan certification position and an administrative assistant within the Henderson office.

V. Approval of the semi-annual Fiscal and Operational Report pursuant to NRS 695I.370(1)(b) to the Governor and Legislature.

Agenda item tabled due to lack of quorum.

VI. Discussion and possible action of creating various advisory committees for proper oversight and support of the Exchange.

Agenda item tabled due to lack of quorum.

VII. Topics, dates, times, and agenda items for future meetings.

Jonathan Johnson noted that the information discussed during the Executive Director's report was an excellent list to work from when adding in the tabled agenda items from today's meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Valerie Clark.