

Standing Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, June 20, 2014, 4:00 pm

Via Teleconference

Members present:

Jill Thorpe, Kevin Dougherty, Dania Palanker, Stephen Jefferson, Chris Gardner

Members absent:

Barry Lewis

Claire McAndrew

Billy MacCartee

I. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Roll Call, *Chris Gardner, Vice Chair*

Chris Gardner called the meeting to order and did a roll call.

II. Approval of Minutes, *Chris Gardner, Vice Chair*

Chris Gardner asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Board's May 30, 2014 meeting. The minutes were voted on and passed unanimously by a roll call vote of members present.

III. Standing Advisory Board Vacancy Discussion, *Debra Curtis*

The vacancy position announcement has been posted. We are accepting resumes through July 3, 2014. As you know, Standing Advisory Board Member Karen Johnson resigned and has relocated to California. We will need to fill her position for the remainder of her term. The vacancy is posted on the home page of the DC Health Benefit Exchange website. Resumes will be reviewed by the Operations Committee of the Executive Board.

We also just received notification that Barry Lewis will be resigning as of today. There are now two openings. The Executive Board executive committee will be announcing in July who the new board members will be.

IV. Policy Discussion, *Dania Palanker*

These issues are related to the language we worked on last time related to the special enrollment period. Basically where we used spouse, that we adopt that language so that it includes the domestic partnership that's recognized within the DC code because there are people within the District of Columbia that are not legally married but may have a domestic partnership. We want to ensure that an individual who is enrolled in coverage with their domestic partner will have the same opportunity to have a special enrollment period although they are not married, in the event that the relationship ends similar to divorce, or in the case of domestic abuse.

Jill Thorpe: I have a quick question, under the eligibility rules, are domestic partners allowed to get insurance in the first place.

Alex Alonso: I'll answer that question. Yes, anybody can get eligibility for the exchange assuming they meet the eligibility rules, residency, citizenship, etc. As far as enrolling in coverage, you follow the normal District of Columbia insurance rules. You are allowed to enroll in a family plan together. The premium rates are still individual rating so you pay the same premium whether you bought your plan separately or together. That's the new individual rating under the _____. The distinction would be that you get to take advantage of family deductibles in the District of Columbia by being in a family plan together. However, if you are not legally married, you do not qualify to be in a tax household together and would not be able to get advance premium tax credit as a tax household. That is probably the biggest distinction that is important for us as an exchange.

A motion was made to accept the new language and was voted on. The vote was unanimous among members present.

A motion was made regarding change number 8, which relates to getting divorced or legally separated. The triggering event is the date of the divorce or legal separation.

A motion was made to accept the new language and was voted on. The vote was unanimous among members present.

Alex Alonso: I've been asked by Kevin Lucia of the Executive Board to discuss one item. There is something in the regulations that allows people who are enrolled in coverage, who experience a change in income or a change in eligibility for premium tax credit or cost sharing reductions, to be eligible for special enrollment. He asked us to look into that for people who are not enrolled in coverage, but have a change in their household circumstance to see whether we could create a special enrollment period to allow them to get coverage although they are not already enrolled. We looked into this on a staff level and have reviewed it with CMS and determined that it is preempted and we cannot do that as a special circumstance. I wanted to put that on the record.

V. Closing Remarks & Adjourn

A motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm.