



**Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Meeting
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: By Conference Call Only
Call- in Number: 1-650-479-3208; access code: 731 476 505

Members Present: Henry Aaron, Leighton Ku, Diane Lewis, Khalid Pitts (in person), Karima Woods

Members Absent: LaQuandra Nesbitt, Wayne Turnage, Tamara Watkins, Laura Zeilinger

I. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Roll Call, Diane Lewis, Chair

A roll call of members confirmed that there was a quorum with four voting members present (Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pitts).

Ms. Lewis welcomed the new Acting Commissioner of the Department of Insurance Securities and Banking, Karima Woods, to the HBX Executive Board. Prior to this role, Ms. Woods served as the Director of Business Development and Strategy in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, where she provided strategic leadership, stakeholder engagement, and global outreach to the business community.

II. Approval of Agenda, Diane Lewis, Chair

It was moved and seconded to approve the draft agenda. The motion carried unanimously, with Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, and Mr. Pitts voting yes.

III. Approval of Minutes, Diane Lewis, Chair

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of January 8th, 2020. The motion carried unanimously, with Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, and Ms. Watkins voting yes.

IV. Brief Executive Director Report, Mila Kofman, Executive Director

OPEN ENROLLMENT: Plan selections individual marketplace:

PLAN SELECTIONS	PY 2020	PERCENT	PY 2019	PERCENT	PY 2018	PERCENT
Auto Renewals	13,737	69%	14,020	67%	14,488	64%
Active Renewals	1,591	8%	1,799	9%	2,610	12%
New Customers	4,604	23%	4,957	24%	5,486	24%
TOTAL	19,932	100%	20,776	100%	22,584	100%
<i>* Auto Renewals Include 112 people moved from Catastrophic to Bronze due to age.</i>						

- We know that SHOP enrollment also impacts the individual market – as 768 people who had individual coverage in 2019 are enrolled in SHOP plans for 2020.
- We now turn to retention and utilizing SEPs to get residents enrolled.
- Key in this strategy is the new SEP that enables people to get covered if they learn of the District’s individual responsibility requirement when filing their taxes this year.
- SHOP enrollment has increased by almost 2,000 over last year.
- The District’s Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) on February 6 posted a blog for tax preparers about the special enrollment opportunity for residents who are uninsured and paying the 2019 penalty. <https://mytaxdc.wordpress.com/2020/02/06/special-enrollment-opportunity-offered-to-uninsured-district-residents-to-get-covered-and-minimize-tax-penalty-2/>
- We are also working with Community Tax Aid which hosts free tax preparation sessions across the District and have flyers for them to refer people for help getting covered and plan to have assisters join some of their bigger community events as well.
- The Executive Board Marketing Committee will be doing a deep dive into our open enrollment strategy and will provide advice to help us ensure a robust non-open enrollment strategy for retention and SEPS throughout 2020.

1095As – On January 31 HBX generated 17,055 Form 1095As -- sent by mail and available online -- for residents covered through the individual marketplace in 2019.

PUBLIC CHARGE RULE: Legal injunctions were lifted by the Supreme Court and the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services has reported that the regulation will go into effect on February 24, 2020. We are working with the Mayor’s office to update materials on all websites in the District. We are assessing our partnership with the immigration attorneys funded through the Mayor’s Immigration Justice Grants to continue to provide resources to District residents throughout the year.

LAWSUIT CHALLENGING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TWO BILL

REQUIREMENT FOR ABORTION & OTHER HEALTH CARE: The District's Attorney General Karl Racine joined a multi-state lawsuit to stop the Trump Administration from implementing this final rule requiring two separate bills and payments for a single health insurance policy that covers abortion services. The rule is scheduled to go into effect in late June.

PROPOSAL FROM TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO PROHIBIT AUTO-RENEWAL FOR CERTAIN APTC RECIPIENTS:

The proposed Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters Rule for Plan Year 2021 seeks comments on whether auto-renewal for certain APTC recipients should be prohibited. It is specifically targeted at consumers who have APTC at such a level that they pay \$0 premiums. This idea comes after Congress specifically acted in the end-of-the-year funding bill to prohibit HHS from interfering with auto-renewal for 2021. Comments are due by March 2nd and we will be strongly objecting to this idea.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Due to scheduling issues, the March 11 Board meeting is being moved to April 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Ku asked whether OTR is planning to send letters to people individually who were uninsured before and had to pay a penalty, similar to what IRS experimented with. Ms. Kofman said she had shared the IRS study with OTR. In addition to posting a blog, OTR sent a message to its listserv, which goes to many tax practitioners. OTR is also working on a letter to taxpayers.

Ms. Woods asked for the name of the organization with whom we are working regarding free tax help to residents. Ms. Kofman said initially, Community Tax Aid. She said she would welcome additional suggestions on other organizations. Ms. Woods said she would follow up with Ms. Kofman as DISB has partnerships regarding free tax help to citizens.

V. Discussion Item

- a. Proposed HBX Convening of Health Insurance Carriers Regarding Access to Health Care East of the River – Diane Lewis, Chair*

Ms. Lewis stated that HBX owes follow-up from our January Performance Oversight Hearing to Chairman Gray's request for assistance with the issue of a lack of medical providers in Ward 7 and 8. This is an issue that CM Gray also raised last year at our budget and performance oversight hearings. At last year's budget hearing, Ms. Lewis responded that we are concerned about access issues. At our recent performance oversight hearing, Ms. Kofman suggested that we could gather our health insurers to figure out how they have addressed similar issues in other states. Our health insurance companies operate in other states that have problems with access to medical services for particular populations or regions. It is possible we could learn ways we could collaborate with them to address this serious problem in health equity in the District.

Ms. Lewis said she had agreed to lead this initiative with HBX and our plan is to reach out to carriers to set up an initial meeting soon. Before we did that, Ms. Lewis wanted to discuss it with the Board and see if anyone has any concerns with this plan.

Dr. Aaron and Dr. Ku spoke in support Ms. Lewis' plan. Dr. Ku noted that there are far fewer providers east of the river. Ms. Lewis said CM Gray's concern is with the serious health disparity issues, and the inability to persuade providers to locate east of the river. If we have close to an insured population of 100%, there must be other issues that are obstacles to better provider participation east of the river.

Given there were no concerns, Ms. Lewis noted that these meetings will proceed.

VI. Public Comment

No public comment was proffered.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjourn, *Diane Lewis, Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.