



Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Public Meeting MINUTES

Date: March 13, 2024
Time: 5:33 PM
Location: Via Zoom/By Video or Conference Call Only
Meeting Link: <https://rb.gy/q6klrs> password: 3a+\$FTq4

Members Present: Henry Aaron, Diane Lewis

Members Absent: Leighton Ku, Tamara Watkins, Gabriela Mossi, Ramon Richards, Khalid Pitts, Wayne Turnage, Laura Zeilinger, Ayanna Bennett, Karima Woods

HBX Deputy Executive Director Purvee Kempf announced the absence of a quorum and turned to M. Kofman to provide a briefing.

The Health Committee’s Performance Oversight hearing was held on February 14 and offered compelling testimony. M. Kofman reported that Councilmember Henderson was pleased with the large enrollment growth since the program launched and stated that this was one of those “joyous moments, of something we thought about, we heard from advocates it was something they wanted, we put it in, and then we actually see the outcomes of it in such a short period of time.”

The budget hearing is scheduled for April 8. Both D. Lewis and M. Kofman will be testifying.

Open enrollment was again a success. A video of open enrollment which featured outreach events at Ben’s Chili Bowl and Carlos Rosario and others was played. M. Kofman acknowledged the artists who wrote and performed an original hip hop song encouraging enrollment in DC Health Link.

H. Aaron suggested that Ben’s Chili Bowl should consider offering free chili for new enrollees as an incentive, e.g. with a “certificate” through the mail. Mila described how HBX Communications Director Linda Wharton-Boyd currently leverages the reach of Ben’s Chili Bowl. Many residents asked about private health insurance and Medicaid at various events.

Nationwide, the Biden Administration reported that 13.2 million individuals have selected a plan which is the highest enrollment number on record. HBX experienced the most earned media

ever during this past open enrollment. M. Kofman credited Mayor Bowser for sharing a press release and using social media to promote open enrollment. Earned media is the second most prevalent way people find out about DC Health Link. HealthCare.gov is the first.

Special enrollment periods are an option if a resident missed open enrollment through loss of a job or other qualifying life event.

POWERUP DC will be held on April 30 at the Washington Convention Center.

Since HC4CC started in January 2023 through now March 2024, enrollment of licensed facilities doubled from 94 to 198. Employer enrollment more than doubled from 61 to 139. Employee enrollment doubled from 516 to 1,073. Enrollment of employees and their dependents doubled from 594 to 1,229. Resident enrollment has increased from 41 to 208. Enrollment of residents and their dependents went from 62 to 331. Facilities are examined for how they qualify based on licensing status. There are 436 currently licensed early child development facilities but not all are eligible for HC4CC group coverage either because they have more than 100 FTEs or do not have employees. Some facilities have employees that have other coverage, e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, or have spousal coverage. 287 facilities were identified as eligible for group coverage and to date have enrollment of 198 in HC4CC group coverage.

There are over a thousand workers eligible for Medicaid. When they receive the notice, HBX responds quickly and assists with information that DC Medicaid needs. HBX alerts people about their official notice. The HC4CC Advisory Council has reviewed the communications and M. Kofman extended appreciation for their efforts.

Medicaid Unwinding outreach continues and through email and text, assisters continue to make contact. 295 potentially eligible households were identified and 47 were enrolled in Individual or SHOP, 26 households enrolled in Medicaid, and 29 reported they had other coverage.

The Biden Administration's Department of Labor released the AHP rule that proposed to repeal the Trump Administration's 2018 final rule which promoted the proliferation of association health plans which are exempt from ACA protections. The successful court challenge stopped the proliferation of AHPs. Many submitted letters including insurance commissioners, carriers including BCBSA, KP and Cigna. The final Short Term Limited Duration Plans rule is at OMB as is the final Notice of Benefits and Payment Parameters Proposed Rule. Earlier this month, appeals for the Fifth Circuit took place on HHS' appeal of a decision out of a lower court in Texas which deemed most preventive services provisions as unlawful.

The HBX Social Justice speaker series included hosting Dr. Lonnie Bunch, head of the Smithsonian, to help celebrate Black History Month. HBX hosted Mayor Sharon Pratt, first woman mayor of DC to celebrate Women's History Month.

The meeting ended at 5:56p.m. on March 13, 2024.