

Minutes of GS-PNHP chapter meeting of March 22,2017.

- 1) Introduction of new members: Tom Gaumont,Phyllis Piotrow, Jane Guise and Don Bent (see details on the sign sheet). The new members are activists with a connection to healthcare field in various modes/ capacity and interest in healthcare justice, with a focus on Medicare for All-single payer reform model.
- 2) Minutes of the Feb meeting was presented even though some members were not able to have it online prior to the meeting(Camilla)
- 3) A lively interchange between the new members and ‘the old timers’ ensued re: our goals and mission, which was summarized by Ahmed, Ken and Susan as: a dual track of supporting the national PNHP goals, in particular gathering more support for the Conyers bill(HR 676) which now has 69 cosigners in the US House; and at the State level to keep on working to get the Study Committee bill(HB250) passed by the NH Senate.
- 4) Ahmed updated that as of this morning, per Rhonda at the Governor’s office confirmed that HB 250 is assigned to the Commerce Committee and a hearing date has NOT been posted; but this is expected for early April.
- 5) We then tasked Tom Gaumont to identify Senators on the Commerce Commmtte and then each of us should to attempt reaching the Senator in the district of domicile,and ask for support/sponsorship, whenever politically feasible.
- 6) When Senate Committee hearings are scheduled, each one of us will try and be there as witnesses, visitors to the gallery and invite ‘heavy hitter’ speakers, arrange for patients/family members with a compelling story of medical/healthcare- system related hardship to narrate first hand before the Senators.
- 7) Ken and Ahmed gave a brief recap of the events that they spoke at during the rallies held since our last meeting at Concord, Keene and Peterborough.
- 8) Camilla discussed the spreadsheet on Rotary Clubs and the intro letter prepared by Susan and Camilla. Tom Gaumont has agreed to work on this project, originally to be taken up by the student –intern. I updated the group on the status of our potential student -intern from Dartmouth College (Sadhana Puri),which fell through for lack of funding expected by the student, who apparently has taken time off from the school and currently is at home in Louisiana.
- 9) We discussed the plan of reactivating expired memberships in the GS-PNHP; Tom proposed that in the light of the current emergency situation f healthcare funding, it is appropriate to remind the lapsed members to become involved again. Camilla did have reservations on this move. Done gently and politely appealing to their moral conscience, I was of the view to go forward and Tom was ‘authorized’ to initiate this measure.
- 10) Senators previously identified were reviewed: Donna Soucy,Betty Laskey,Jeb Bradley, Martha Fuller and Martha Hennissey. Several members were tasked to contact any Senator, representing their district/with a personal or social connection to solicit support for our Bill.
- 11) As new business, Susan Z-Hale read the message from PNHP national re: April 8th to be observed as a day of nationwide protest on healthcare legislation’s unconscionable cutback of funding and its impact.

- 12) Ahmed then proposed that our chapter put together a 'rally' in front of the StateHouse(around the Webster statue) on Sat April 8th from 11AM till 1PM. And the motion was adopted. Now we have work to do make the event successful and help spread our message.
- 13) Phyllis recommended writing letters to the editor/OpEd columns and will devote her own column and talent to strengthen our cause.
- 14) One of the members(?Dr Nick Pepencevich) present at the meeting did agree to contact Laura Knoy from NHNPR/WCRB to see if she would do a call in-exchange radio program on healthcare policy with an emphasis on MC4ALL. Sorry I do not recall who last evening came forward on this task.
- 15) Next meeting: while not discussed,NO objection was raised for Wed April 26th.
- 16) Then we adjourned, after a productive session.
- 17) In attendance were: Tom Gaumont,Phyllis Pitrow,Jane Guise,Ken Dolkhart,Don Bent,Camilla Jones,Nick Pepencevich,Suasn Zlotnick-Hale and Ahmed Kutty.

Compiled by Ahmed Kutty,MD
Peterborough, March 23,2017
See sign sheet atatched