

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

March 31, 2023

Scheduled 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Presiding Officer: Susan Tenney, Chair

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Vaccine Association (NHVA) was held via Zoom Webinar with a quorum present. The meeting was called to order by Susan Tenney, Chair, at 9:03 a.m.

Attendance – The following individuals attended the meeting:

Board Members:

Susan Tenney, HPHC, Chair
Edward Moran, Public Member, Vice Chair
Jason Margus, Anthem, Treasurer
Harold Young, Cigna, Secretary
Jason Dexter (for Michelle Heaton, NHID)
Patricia Edwards, MD, Healthcare Provider
Marc Fournier, USNH, Self-Insured Entity
Anne Marie Mercuri, NH DHHS
Wendy Wright, DNP, Healthcare Provider

Other Attendees & Administrative Staff:

Mark McCue, Esq., Hinckley Allen
Patrick Miller, Helms & Company, Inc.
Erin Meagher, Helms & Company, Inc.
Keith Nix, Helms & Company, Inc.

Members of the Public:

Brooke Cardoso, CSL Seqirus
Laura Condon, National Vaccine Information Ctr.
Andrew Rennekamp, CSL Seqirus

Excused Board Member

Lorraine Radick, RPh, Public Member

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Tenney thanked everyone for attending the meeting of the NH Vaccine Association’s Board of Directors. She advised the group that Helms & Company, Inc. (Helms) is recording the meeting for the purpose of meeting minutes and the recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved. She then asked if any members of the public were recording to please indicate so in the Q&A or raise their electronic hand. No member of the public indicated they were recording.

Ms. Tenney conducted a roll call of Board members for attendance:

	<u>Present</u>
<i>Jason Dexter</i>	X
<i>Patricia Edwards, MD</i>	X
<i>Marc Fournier</i>	X
<i>Jason Margus</i>	X (Joined at 9:05 a.m.)
<i>Anne Marie Mercuri</i>	X
<i>Edward Moran</i>	X
<i>Lorraine Radick, RPh</i>	Absent
<i>Susan Tenney</i>	X
<i>Wendy Wright, DNP</i>	X
<i>Harold Young</i>	X (Joined at 9:06 a.m.)

Ms. Tenney read two statements: the “Statement of Board Chair Regarding Meetings by Videoconference” and the “Board Chair Statement re: Public Commentary During Meetings.”

38 Ms. Tenney welcomed Ms. Wright as a new Board Member. Ms. Wright introduced herself and stated that she is a
 39 practicing Family Nurse Practitioner with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice. Her doctoral work focused on vaccination,
 40 particularly vaccine communication. Ms. Wright has been a Nurse Practitioner in the state for over 30 years and
 41 owns a primary care clinic in Amherst, New Hampshire, employing 11 nurse practitioners and has about 6,500
 42 primary care patients. She was formerly the Nurse Practitioner Representative to the NH Immunization Advisory
 43 Board for almost 10 years, appointed by the NH Nurses Association.

44

45 **2. Review and Acceptance of the November 16, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**

46

47 Ms. Tenney advised the group of a required edit of page four. The second sentence beginning on line 144 should
 48 read “Approximately 30% of children have completed the full series.” She asked if there were any other changes.
 49 Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

50

51 **VOTE RECORDED:** *On a motion by Mr. Moran, seconded by Ms. Wright, by roll call it was*
 52 **VOTED:** *To accept the November 16, 2022, Board meeting minutes with the one change*
 53 *identified on line 144.*

54

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
56 Jason Dexter	X	
57 Patricia Edwards, MD	X	
58 Marc Fournier		Abstain
59 Jason Margus	X	
60 Anne Marie Mercuri	X	
61 Edward Moran	X	
62 Lorraine Radick, RPh		Absent
63 Susan Tenney	X	
64 Wendy Wright, DNP	X	
65 Harold Young	X	

66

67 **3. Appointment of Proxies**

68

69 Ms. Tenney stated that to prepare for the Board’s annual meeting in June, proxies need to be appointed to represent
 70 the voting assessable entities during the meeting to enable the selection of the Assessable Entity Directors for the
 71 2024 fiscal year. As it has been the course in prior years, the Board has voted to have the Board Chair and the NH
 72 Insurance Department (NHID) representative serve as these proxies. Ms. Tenney asked if anyone would like to make
 73 a motion to appoint herself and Ms. Heaton as proxies.

74

75 **VOTE RECORDED:** *On a motion by Mr. Fournier, seconded by Dr. Edwards, by roll call it was*
 76 **VOTED:** *To authorize the appointment of Ms. Tenney and Ms. Heaton as proxies for the*
 77 *Assessable Entity Director selection at the June 14, 2023 Annual Meeting of the*
 78 *Members.*

79

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
81 Jason Dexter	X	
82 Patricia Edwards, MD	X	
83 Marc Fournier	X	
84 Jason Margus	X	
85 Anne Marie Mercuri	X	
86 Edward Moran	X	
87 Lorraine Radick, RPh		Absent

88	<i>Susan Tenney</i>	X
89	<i>Wendy Wright, DNP</i>	X
90	<i>Harold Young</i>	X

91

92 **4. Executive Director Report**

93

94 Ms. Tenney invited Mr. Miller to present the Executive Director Report. Mr. Miller began by thanking Mr. Dexter for
95 attending the meeting today representing the NHID while Ms. Heaton is on parental leave.

96

97 Mr. Miller provided an update on the recent audit performed of the reinsurance carriers. The effort was discussed
98 with the NHID prior to any carrier outreach. It was led by Ms. Meagher to ensure that all 23 carriers licensed in the
99 State were properly registered with the NHVA and either were filing assessments appropriately or had submitted a
100 Permanent Zero Covered Lives Certificate. All carriers, except for one, have complied with the request, and Ms.
101 Meagher continues to follow up with this one outlier.

102

103 Mr. Miller reported that Helms & Company, Inc. would like to conduct an audit of Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans
104 across the country. There is ongoing compliance work with a Blue Cross Blue Shield plan in one of the southern states
105 who currently is not filing child covered lives, but one of their employer groups believes they should. In consultation
106 with the NHID, Attorney McCue was engaged to help resolve the issue and determine if either filings are due or if a
107 Permanent Zero Covered Lives Certificate should be filed by the plan. While there are 25 Blue Cross Blue Shield
108 entities, including subsidiaries, currently filing child covered lives, this compliance effort has led to the conclusion
109 that a national audit should occur. Mr. Miller indicated the audit will be pursued in the spring unless there are any
110 board member concerns.

111

112 Mr. Miller briefly reviewed the *FYTD 2023 Unaudited Financial Statements* through February 28, 2023. He reported
113 that there is nothing particularly notable since the budget is on track. The ICS line item reflects continued increases
114 as the year progresses and cash builds, whereas the laddered CD balances are decreasing. As CDs are called or come
115 due, the balances are transferred to the ICS account which currently is yielding higher interest rates. The balance
116 sheet currently shows \$20.3M in assets. The estimated payment due to the State of New Hampshire at the end of
117 June is \$19.2M, however, based on discussions with Ms. Mercuri about expenditures to date, it is anticipated this
118 payment could be a few hundred thousand dollars less. This will be discussed further at the Audit Committee
119 meeting in April. The NHVA's administrative budget is currently ahead of budget by \$12,411, primarily due to
120 unspent legal fees to date.

121

122 Mr. Miller proceeded to review the provided data trends. Total child covered lives have declined more rapidly during
123 the pandemic. It is believed most of the lives that were lost have transitioned to Medicaid. Traditional Medicaid has
124 seen an increase of 15,502 child lives since the pandemic began. With the public health emergency ending, it is
125 expected that Medicaid will have fewer child covered lives. The U.S. unemployment rates have begun to level out
126 over the past four to five months and the New Hampshire rate is showing a slight increase. It is believed that
127 unemployment is also partly responsible for the decline of child covered lives due to loss of commercial coverage.
128 The Association has seen a 6.4% reduction in covered lives since 2014 with a more pronounced rate reduction
129 starting in 2018. Assessment rates have remained steady since 2018 due to the claw of excess funds previously held
130 at the State and the TRICARE settlement. This information is similar to that which was provided last September when
131 the rate setting model was reviewed. We continue to expect rates will increase over the next few years based upon
132 the decrease in covered lives as well as the increase in vaccine costs. Mr. Miller explained that he has been working
133 closely with Ms. Mercuri and her staff to understand month to month what is happening in terms of vaccine
134 expenditures. Information about the revised fund source split should be available during the April Audit Committee
135 meeting. Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Mercuri for the work and her partnership. Lastly, Mr. Miller reviewed the ICS Rate
136 Changes graph. The pre-pandemic interest rates were surpassed in November of 2022, and continue to climb. Nearly
137 \$140,000 of interest has been generated this year to help offset administrative expenses. Ms. Tenney thanked Mr.

138 Miller for pursuing increases in the ICS account funds. She then thanked Mr. Miller for his report and asked if there
139 were any questions. There were none.

140

141 **5. NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) Update**

142

143 Ms. Tenney invited Ms. Mercuri to provide the NH DHHS update. Ms. Mercuri reported that the current NHVA-
144 related SFY expenditures through March 15, 2023, total \$13,023,642 and are on track with historical funding and
145 current projections for this year. The CDC will release updated prices April 1, and she will contact Mr. Miller if there
146 are any changes to the cost projections through the end of the SFY. Historically, prices increased 3-4% per year,
147 however, in recent years a 5-7% increase has been the norm. A few percentage points can result in significant cost
148 increases for the Association due to the high volumes of vaccines purchased.

149

150 Ms. Mercuri advised that NH DHHS's Vaccine Selection Committee has met twice in recent months to review the
151 vaccines recently added to New Hampshire's list. Priorix, an MMR vaccine produced by GSK was added in January as
152 an alternative to the Merck vaccine. On April 1st, Merck's Vaxneuvance, a 15-valent pneumococcal vaccine, will be
153 added as an alternative to Pfizer's Prevnar 13. Later this year it is anticipated the Committee will convene to review
154 Pfizer's upcoming Prevnar 20. Both Priorix and Vaxneuvance have similar vaccine and safety protocol profiles to the
155 competing products, and they both afford providers a choice in vaccine presentation and hedge against supply chain
156 issues with a particular manufacturer. NH DHHS finds that new formulations are more expensive than existing
157 presentations. Prevnar 20 is anticipated to be \$8 more than Vaxneuvance and \$12 more than the Prevnar 13. New
158 formulations are another contributor to the increasing costs to the Association.

159

160 Ms. Mercuri reported New Hampshire children continue to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. 52,000 doses were
161 administered to children in the last 12 months, and boosters have been newly added for the younger children six
162 months to four years of age. Data from the New Hampshire Immunization Information System (NHIS) indicate that
163 for children aged six months to 18 years, 113,000 (38.9%) have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine,
164 30.4% have completed the full series, and 11.4% have received a booster vaccine. As the commercialization of the
165 COVID-19 vaccine draws closer, the NH DHHS continues to participate in calls with the US Centers for Disease Control
166 and Prevention (CDC), the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and other states. States
167 continue to express their need for implementation information well in advance of the transition and are concerned
168 about the impact of vaccine costs and access to the vaccine. The CDC has indicated the transition will occur in the
169 fall of 2023, however, pricing is not yet available to provide states and insurance companies with the information
170 necessary for accurate cost projections. NH DHHS also anticipates the vaccine to be recommended on an annual
171 basis – similar to influenza – and with possible vaccine formulation changes to address changes in strains.

172

173 Ms. Wright asked if Ms. Mercuri anticipates any infant or children RSV vaccines will be introduced into the market
174 over the next year. Ms. Mercuri indicated there has been national discussion regarding adult RSV vaccines.

175

176 Dr. Edwards asked Ms. Mercuri if she has heard anything about the availability timing of single dose presentations
177 for COVID vaccines to result in less wastage. Ms. Mercuri indicated that the CDC and manufacturers continue to state
178 that this is being addressed, and she agreed this is a big concern with cost and wastage implications. Mr. Moran
179 asked if it would be beneficial to have the New Hampshire congressional delegation involved with these discussions.
180 Ms. Mercuri replied that she believes conversations are taking place at a multitude of levels including the delegation.

181

182 Ms. Tenney thanked Ms. Mercuri for her report.

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184

185

186

[Intentionally left blank]

187

188 **6. Public Comment**

189
190 Ms. Tenney invited members of the public that wished to provide comments to raise their hand or indicate so in the
191 Q&A¹. Ms. Condon questioned the amount of the investment fees for NHVA’s laddered CD portfolio. She then made
192 the point that the investment earnings should be available to offset all costs and not just administrative costs. She
193 then questioned what the practice at the NH Department of Health and Human Services is with regard to monitoring
194 vaccine safety. Ms. Condon then thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. No other members
195 of the public wished to address the Board.

197 **7. Executive Session**

198
199 Ms. Tenney asked for a motion to move into Executive Session for consultation with outside legal counsel.

200
201 **VOTE RECORDED:** *On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Ms. Moran, by roll call it was*
202 **VOTED:** *To move into Executive Session at 9:39 a.m.*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
204		
205	<i>Jason Dexter</i>	<i>X</i>
206	<i>Patricia Edwards, MD</i>	<i>X</i>
207	<i>Marc Fournier</i>	<i>X</i>
208	<i>Jason Margus</i>	<i>X</i>
209	<i>Anne Marie Mercuri</i>	<i>X</i>
210	<i>Edward Moran</i>	<i>X</i>
211	<i>Lorraine Radick, RPh</i>	<i>Absent</i>
212	<i>Susan Tenney</i>	<i>X</i>
213	<i>Wendy Wright, DNP</i>	<i>X</i>
214	<i>Harold Young</i>	<i>X</i>

215
216 Ms. Tenney asked Mr. Miller to participate in the Executive Session. The Board members and Mr. Miller engaged in
217 a discussion with Attorney McCue regarding the impacts of the end of the federal public health emergency. The
218 consensus of the Board members present was to continue with meetings via Zoom or other accessible
219 videoconferencing service to facilitate and encourage full participation by the volunteer Board members and the
220 public (particularly those living a considerable distance from Concord) while eliminating the costs associated with
221 rental of public meeting space.

222
223 Executive Session minutes respectfully submitted by,
224 Mark McCue, Esq., Outside Counsel
225 April 11, 2023

226
227 **VOTE RECORDED:** *On a motion by Dr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Moran, by roll call it was*
228 **VOTED:** *To move out of Executive Session at 9:57 a.m.*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
230		
231	<i>Jason Dexter</i>	<i>X</i>
232	<i>Patricia Edwards, MD</i>	<i>X</i>

¹ Note: Per the *Board Chair Statement re: Public Commentary During Meetings*, the Public Comment portion of the agenda is not an interactive session with the Board. Any questions should be directed to the NHVA’s Executive Director who will respond in a timely fashion.

233	<i>Marc Fournier</i>	X	
234	<i>Jason Margus</i>	X	
235	<i>Anne Marie Mercuri</i>	X	
236	<i>Edward Moran</i>	X	
237	<i>Lorraine Radick, RPh</i>		<i>Absent</i>
238	<i>Susan Tenney</i>	X	
239	<i>Wendy Wright, DNP</i>		<i>Exited at 9:45 a.m.</i>
240	<i>Harold Young</i>	X	

241
242 **8. Adjournment**

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244 Hearing no additional comments or questions, Ms. Tenney asked for a motion.
245

246 **VOTE RECORDED:** *On a motion by Mr. Fournier, seconded by Dr. Edwards, by roll call it was*
247 **VOTED:** *To adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m.*

248			
249		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
250	<i>Jason Dexter</i>		<i>Exited at 9:58 a.m.</i>
251	<i>Patricia Edwards, MD</i>	X	
252	<i>Marc Fournier</i>	X	
253	<i>Jason Margus</i>	X	
254	<i>Anne Marie Mercuri</i>	X	
255	<i>Edward Moran</i>	X	
256	<i>Lorraine Radick, RPh</i>		<i>Absent</i>
257	<i>Susan Tenney</i>	X	
258	<i>Wendy Wright, DNP</i>	X	
259	<i>Harold Young</i>	X	

260
261
262 Board of Directors Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by
263 Harold Young, Secretary
264 April 3, 2023

265
266 # # #