

MINUTES**SENATE & HOUSE
HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**February 7, 2014

The Senate and House Health Insurance Marketplace Legislative Oversight Committee met Friday, February 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room B of the Multi-Agency Complex (MAC) Building.

Health Insurance Marketplace Senate members attending were: Senators David Sanders, Chair; and Jonathan Dismang.

Health Insurance Marketplace House members attending were: Representatives Jeremy Gillam, Chair; Eddie Armstrong, John Burris, Deborah Ferguson, and Sue Scott.

Other legislators attending were: Senator Bill Sample. Representatives Nate Bell, Mark Biviano, Kim Hammer, Joe Jett, Fredrick Love, Josh Miller, and Betty Overbey.

Comments by the Chair

Representative Jeremy Gillam called the meeting to order, and made some brief announcements.

Report from the Health Insurance Marketplace Board (Act 1500 of 2013) on Their Activities to Date

Fred Bean, Board Member, Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Board of Directors, and President of Bean, Hamilton & Associates; presented a brief report on the activities of the board. The board meets twice monthly and they have now completed their organizational duties, some of which are listed below:

- ◆ Articles of Operation have been written
- ◆ Bylaws have been written
- ◆ Operating rules have been written
- ◆ Procurement rules have been written
- ◆ Memorandum of understanding with the Arkansas Insurance Department
- ◆ The board is the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) website
- ◆ The board has now acquired office space

The board members are now in a position to begin addressing the responsibilities for which they were organized. They have received a grant for \$3,577,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID) and are just waiting on the approval. Mr. Bean said the board has advertised for an executive director and/or a professional services company to help meet the staffing needs. To date, there are 9 applicants for an executive director position.

Mr. Bean stated that educating the consumer is a key factor in the success of the new insurance program. They need to know they now have insurance that will pay for an office call, so they don't have to go to the emergency room for their healthcare. As Mr. Bean stated, this will take time. Also, better access to health care will need to be addressed, especially for rural consumers.

There are other Marketplace boards around the country, but Arkansas's Private Option is unique and the whole country is watching to see how it develops. Mr. Bean noted that Cindy Crone and Jay Bradford of the Arkansas Insurance Department have been very helpful in collaborating with the board.

Committee members and Mr. Bean discussed the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Board of Directors meetings in relation to the ex-officio members of the board, Jay Bradford and John Selig, and whether or not they should have voting privileges on important matters arising in the board meetings. Representative Gillam stated that the Legal Analysis Staff is silent on this issue right now, but it will be addressed at a future meeting of the Health Insurance Marketplace Legislative Oversight Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.