

Rhode Island Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Board of Directors Meeting August 20, 2008

*Hasbro Children's Hospital
Collis Conference Room*

Minutes

Attending: Beth Lange, MD; Presiding, Members: Andrew Snyder, M.D., Peter Howland, M.D., Peter Pogacar, M.D., Pamela High, M.D., Patricia Flanagan, M.D., Lisa Keswick, M.D., Stewart Mackie, M.D., Executive Director Frank Donahue,

Guests: Adam Cutler, Lynn Tripp, Jason Brown, of Tufts Health Plan

President Elizabeth Lange convened the meeting at 6:15 p.m., and the minutes of the June Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Peter Pogacar and second by Lisa Keswick.

Tufts Health Plan Presentation:

Jason Brown, Network Contracting and Performance Management of Tufts Health Plan discussed the strategic rationale for entry into the Rhode Island market, the Rhode Island physician's interest in THP and Tufts physician rate comparison.

After experiencing several years in membership decline, THP stabilized its Massachusetts membership in 2006 and experienced a 9% growth in 2007. Rhode Island legislators and Governor have encouraged THP to enter the RI market. RI has now become a key strategic market for THP. The state would now have 3 health insurers instead of 2 and that will make the insurance marketplace much more competitive. While the plan has filed an application with the health insurance commissioner for entry beginning in 2009 the Plan is trying to gauge physician support for THP in the state.

Jason explained that THP is a right fit for RI because:

- It is a local non profit health plan with demonstrated commitment to provider collaboration and community support
- It is willing to commit resources to a new market
- THP has national excellence in quality and service. It is ranked #2 in US News and World Report ranking of America's Best Health Plans

Jason claimed that THP entry into RI will reduce physician dependence on BCBSRI and United Health Plan and improve physicians negotiating dynamic with the other 2 plans. Also it will be an attractive option to insure physicians and regional employers.

There will be a Provider Services Call Center with:

- Operating hours 8:00 AM– 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday and 10:00 – 5 PM on Friday. PSCC are: claims, benefits Carelink, employee subrogation, coordination of benefits and member eligibility and claims. There will be over 80 Provider specialists averaging 2,000 – 2,400 calls per day.

Jason claims that THP has a 90% provider satisfaction rate. Provider Communication will have a quarterly bulletin sent to all providers, a Web site (with all payment policies available) as primary communication vehicle.

THP is having a physician meeting September 25, 2008 at the Biltmore Hotel from 6:00 – 9:00 PM to present their plan and answer provider question. The RIAAP membership is invited to participate.

President' Report:

Announcements:

- The 2nd Annual RIAAP golf Tournament which is scheduled for the Valley CC in Warwick on August 25. Members are invited to play or attend the reception and dinner following the Tournament. Contact Frank Donahue or Elaine La Roche.
Other announcement and events:
- Step Up for Kids: September 16, 2008 an event will be held at the Temple of Music at Roger Williams Park to support the RI Prevent Child Abuse agency.
- RI AAP and Coastal Care Medical Management sponsors the Annual Fall CME November 7, 2008 at the Providence Marriott: Registration beginning at 12:30 PM. Topics covering the causes, diagnosis and treatments of autism, ADHD and the stimulants that treat it, developmental screening, and skilled early childhood education. keynote speaker Margaret Blood.
- Hasbro Hospital CME – September 24, 2008-10-14
- NCE of AAP in Boston at the Hynes Auditorium October 10 -14, 2008. Register through AAP by August 25 (reduced rate) or on site at Hynes Auditorium during conference.

- **Immunization Meeting:** AAP sponsored meeting will be held in Providence in April of 2009.
- **Tri State CME.** The MA, Ct and RI Chapters are planning a tri state CME in the fall of 2009 in Providence. An planning committee of executive directors is planning the meeting. This first meeting will be in Providence and consist of a day and a half CME program. Families will be welcome and there will be family events included on the Friday/Saturday meeting.

Lifespan Merger: Beth reported on meetings with Attorney General Patrick Lynch and Health Director, David Gifford, who have the legal responsibility for approval or rejection of the Lifespan proposal. In both meetings, attended by Beth and Frank Donahue, the Attorney General and the Health Director were told that RIAAP's primary concern is with the health of children throughout the state. They were told that RIAAP has not taken a position on the issue and members seem to be split for and against. RIAAP's position is that it wishes to be a forum for members to ask questions, provide information, seek opinions and convey those informed opinions to the decision making authorities. Both the AG and Health Director welcomed the opinions of the pediatric community and primary care providers in general. The two offices will shortly go into review and will not be able to discuss the merits of the application during that process. Gr. Gifford and Patrick Lynch both mentioned that the decision may involve conditions for approval which may alleviate some critics of the proposal. Both expressed thanks to RIAAP for coming forward to meet and discuss the issue with them.

Executive Director's Report: Frank Donahue reported that the Golf Tournament looks like it will be successful from both a financial and participatory perspective. Nearly 80 golfers have registered and if those numbers hold the RIAAP would make a modest profit which will be used to support advocacy efforts on behalf of children and the Cambodia Resident Training Program.

Legislative Report: Andy Snyder discussed the Medicaid Waiver under development by the RI Department of Human Services. When complete it will constitute an application of the state to the federal government to waive existing requirements of the state Medicaid program in return for more flexibility in program and funding. The end objective is a smaller, less expensive, Medicaid Program. The issue for RIAAP and other health care providers is that DHS has not divulged any details on what they are going to propose. The state legislature and the state's congressional delegation is very much concerned but cannot react until the plan is presented. The waiver will be presented to the federal government in late September or early October.

Resident Report: Stewart Mackie, new Resident Representative to the Board, discussed plans for advocacy initiatives and CATCH grant projects. It was announced to the Board that Peter Simon, M.D., M.P.H., was recognized by District I Catch Program Coordinator Adam Keller at the District I meeting in Montreal, as a leader nationally in the CATCH Program, would be stepping down as Coordinator of the RIAAP CATCH Program. Dr Keller praised Peter's effort for the CATC Program and said he was a leader for many years and will be very much missed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM