

## MINUTES HCA-CCC/ALAMEDA MEETING On Zoom– September 1, 2024, 3 PM

**Present:** Janet Thomas, Nel Benningshof, Jonee Grassi, Michael Karsh, Carol Pinson, Dan Hodges, Marian Shostrom, Harry Baker, Ginny Madsen, and Jean Reynolds.

**Agenda:** Approved.

**Minutes:** Minutes of May 5, 2024, meeting were approved.

**Membership Report:** Nel reported that we have 67 members in the Contra Costa chapter now. The Alameda Chapter has 26 members. She requested volunteers in the chapter to reach out to lapsed members after the November elections and advise her of any who are no longer interested or should be removed from the list for other reasons.

**Treasurer's Report:** Our chapter has \$3,297.91.

**HCA-CA Update:** Jonee reported on the statewide summer fundraiser that resulted in \$20,000 being raised in a two-week period that included using personalized postcards. She extended thanks to all who contributed. HCA-CA has concluded a “SWOT” analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to HCA. One of the issues that was identified was the need to increase the membership. A statewide committee is working on a strategy for membership growth. The State Board voted to donate \$3,000 to the Jovanka Beckles campaign for State Assembly.

**Healthy California Now (HCN) & Labor Updates:** Harry reported that he, along with Hank Abrons, Stephen Vernon, and Devra Dallman, made a presentation about concerns with the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) to HCN's board. The concern is that OHCA is proposing to cap health care spending in California by using the “alternative payment models” used by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS). These payment models have the effect of saving money by denying care. Harry and those who made the presentation will continue to pursue this issue by informing the legislature of the contradictions between OHCA and Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 4 which prohibited the use of risk-bearing or risk-sharing mechanisms in health care. They will continue to monitor OHCA.

**SB 770:** Discussion was held concerning the August 30<sup>th</sup> hearing on the preliminary report by UCLA's policy institute concerning how health care works in California now. Dan reported that SB 770 is a path to obtaining a federal waiver to get Medicare/Medicaid funds for California to use in a single payer health system. He highly recommends that everyone watch Michael Lighty's Code Wack presentation about SB 770. The podcast can be found on the following link: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/your-needs-vs-the-financial-incentives-of-your/id1481277629?i=1000665906351>. Dan reported that the bulk of the feedback from

stakeholders and the public regarding SB 770 will occur in 2025. HCN has an SB 770 Policy Group (Michael Lighty, Dr. Kahn, etc.) who will make suggestions to UCLA regarding their report during the comment period before the final report is made. Several chapter members raised concerns that the report does not describe the waiver process for obtaining the federal funds in support of a single payer system. Jonee will alert HCA-CA chair, Devra Dallman, about these concerns and propose that HCA submit feedback to the UCLA group as part of public comment.

**Outreach – HCA-CCC and Alameda Co.:** Jean and Nel will be tabling soon at GRIP (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program). The May 9<sup>th</sup> presentation “Remedies for a Broken Healthcare System” with speakers Dr. Kahn and Laurel Lucia was well-received at the Lafayette Library.

**Announcements:** Janet will send an announcement with the details of a presentation by HCA-Colorado on Medicare Advantage to be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> and Nel will post it.

**Kaiser Permanente Presentation:** Janet presented an informative lecture and power point of the history and organization of Kaiser Permanente, particularly in California. How to integrate Kaiser health care into a single payer system is important. Kaiser provides health care to over 9 million Californians (about 23.5% of Californians) and has many employees represented by unions (the Alliance of Healthcare Unions, over nine unions). Kaiser has opposed single-payer legislation to date. With its hefty reserves (\$44.5 billion in 2019), Kaiser is purchasing other integrated healthcare systems in states like Pennsylvania to expand its reach. The attendees thanked Janet for this presentation and giving powerful insight into Kaiser.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting date is December 1, 2024, at 3pm.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.