

MINUTES HCA-CCC/ALAMEDA MEETING On Zoom May 4, 2025, 3 PM

Present: Janet Thomas, Nel Benningshof, Jonee Grassi, Harry Baker, Marian Shostrom, Stephen Vernon, Ernie Isaacs, Jean Reynolds, Ginny Madsen, Michael Karsh.

Agenda/Minutes: Agenda was approved. The meeting minutes of February 2, 2025, were approved.

Membership Report: Nel reported that the Contra Costa Chapter has seventy-eight members and Alameda Chapter has twenty-three members.

Treasurer's Report: Janet reported that our chapter has a total amount in the bank of \$3,983.09. No money was spent since the last meeting.

Tribute to Dan Hodges: The members present recalled Dan's passion for single payer and acknowledged that he brought them into the movement. He was admired for working hard on a cause that he knew was right morally, even though he knew that he probably would not see it happen in his lifetime. His role in legislative work and historical recording of single payer will be difficult to replace. Some members have spoken with his wife Eveline and will be retrieving Dan's single payer documents from their home later this summer. The meeting did not seem the same without Dan.

Where are we in this chaotic time? Janet is motivated as much now as ever to visit legislators and educate the public and employers that there is an alternative healthcare system to the current one where lack of care and denial of care are common. The chaos is showing just how immoral our current system is. The May 31st National Day of Action, sponsored by National Single Payer, was discussed. The event in San Francisco on the 31st will be announced to HCA members and supporters.

HCA-CA Update: Harry announced that the Community Outreach Committee of HCA will be mailing packets to chapter leaders throughout the state. These packets will help all be prepared to be "roving advocates" for HCA. A support meeting for this effort will be on May 15 at 4pm. Jonee reported that the State HCA is going to do two budgets this year to get us back on track of reporting for a calendar year which is the official fiscal year per our bylaws. There will be an online fundraising drive in the last two weeks of June. The goal is to raise \$27,000. Devra Dallman, our State HCA Chair, is running for the Board of Healthy California Now (HCN), to replace the seat held by Dan Hodges. Four students from Columbia University in New York volunteered to do research for HCA about our healthcare

system and how a single-payer system could help. Their information will be on the HCA website soon.

Healthy California Now (HCN): Harry reported that HCN is forming a rapid response team similar to PNHP's to form quick responses to issues that arise. Harry hopes to remain on the Board of HCN and will know after the May 9th election. The update on SB770 remains as reported at the annual HCA meeting by Michael Lighty. He reported on legislation that is being supported. SB 242, to allow people on Medicare Advantage plans to switch to traditional Medicare without a penalty, is supported by HCN, but has now lost support by CARA due to amendments. HCN is supporting Pilar Schiavo's AJR 3, which would send a declaration to the federal government that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are off limits for cutbacks. AB 1429 would require Kaiser to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for mental health care when it is not available at Kaiser. SB 435 (Wahab) would require assisted living facilities to have alternative sources of power for at least 72 hours. California Nurses Association will not have a single-payer bill in California this year. Stephen reported that AB 280 would address "ghost networks" which list names of therapists who are not part of a patient's network. A group entitled "Fight for Our Health" is actively targeting Republicans, who represent districts with lots of constituents on Medicaid, to try to stop the cuts to the aid.

HCA-CCC and Alameda Outreach Plans: Stephen Vernon has volunteered to be the interim leader of the Alameda Chapter now that Dan is gone. He will form a team starting in June to organize the chapter. The Contra Costa Chapter will partner with Alameda and help as needed. All members are encouraged to table at farmers' markets and pass out flyers at all rallies that they attend as well as wear their HCA t-shirts. Janet will be presenting a power point slide show on single payer at the League of Women Voters- Health Care Interest Group on May 27th at 7pm. This event will be posted on our website.

Next Meeting Date: August 3, 2025, at 3pm.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm.