

Academic Medical Program Committee Meeting Minutes – 4/4/2025

Attendance: Co-Chair Richard Veenstra

Phil Glick, Steve Grassl, Mindy Heath, Martha Livingston, Mike Lyon, Sam Marquez (Exec. Board Liaison), David Norton, Geoffrey O'Connell, Elizabeth Ruckdeschel, Paul Stasior, Steven Walker, Reis Cunningham, Cheryl Marriott, Glen Itzkowitz, Ashley Fox (UAlbany, guest), Dave Curry (remote via Zoom), Daryll McGrath (staff)

Minutes

The entirety of the meeting was devoted to a presentation on the NY Health Act by Martha Livingston and Ashley Fox, Assoc. Professor in the Rockefeller College of of Public Administration and Policy at UAlbany.

Introduction (15 min): Martha introduced herself and her guest, Ashley Fox, to the attendees and gave a brief background about universal health care, which was first introduced in 1994 as and supported by the Clinton Administration.

2017 - HR 676 (Conyers) Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act ????

- Most wealthy nations provide more health care for less money (Europe, Canada);
- US allows for-profit industries to make medical decisions, making money by denials, this system costs twice as much annually;
- There are 26 million uninsured americans;
- Most health insurance is tied to employment;
- Underinsured pay 10% or more out-of-pocket;
- Universal health care is not going to advance nationally for at least two years;
- NYS could lead the way with NY Heath Act (A1466-Paulin/S3425-Rivera)
- ML gave own recollection of office visit with lengthy, complicated agreement of charges, what's covered, what you pay, what to do if don't like agreement;
- NYSUT endorsed this 10 years ago and unendorsed a couple years later when the NY Senate flipped, remains unendorsed by NYSUT;
- This proposal is better than what we have;
- ML and Dc would love to talk to Chapters about this.

Asley Fox began her presentation (25 min):

- She wants feedback on this presentation
- NYS faces major cuts of \$360 million (Gothamist: \$27M OMH, \$40M OASS, \$300M DOH) plus NIH cuts, etc.
- Healthcare (Medicaid & Medicare) spending is a quarter of the US budget;

- Health insurance in the US is 58% employment based;
- Inflation, premium costs, employee contributions exceed wage increases, Empire plan has had \$50 biweekly employee cost increases each of the last two years;
- Comparison of US health care costs to other countries shows double the cost but not better health care;
- NYSHCA would pay more for Medicaid and Medicare;
- Public safety net hospitals are underfunded;
- NYS HCA A1466/S3425 (Paulin/Rivera) would cover every NYS resident and FT worker, single state fund, no deductibles or copays, includes long term care;
- Progressive taxation, make more, pay more, no flat individual or family plan premiums;
- Estimated savings of 18%, 14% new costs (cover copays, long term care), net savings of 4%, about \$20 billion/yr;
- ACA started in Massachusetts, single payer began in Saskatchewan;
- Join the Fight
- Q and A
 - MH long wait times, need actual data
 - ML is a myth, cited Franklin Institute in Canada
 - AF said it varies by specialty, it's not systematic
 - PG there are consumers and providers here, underserved area concerns, children, traumas, rural areas
 - ML and AF cite Gottfried handout, please read the handouts
 - PS aunt in Canadian system, 3-6 mo wait for some types of care
 - PG moral hazard of economics
 - GO HCA is a top-down approach, how do ground level providers feel about this? Northwell is so big it created its own HMO
 - ML nothing much has to change about how we practice, what changes is patient access
- Next steps
 - Feedback on presentation from AMPC, share the presentation, HSC Chapter workshops
- Handouts provided
 - Understanding the New York Health Act by Richard Gottfried (3/1/2025)
 - New York Health Act (A1466,Paulin/S3425, Rivera) Summary
 - Labor and the New York Health Act (3/3/2025)

Note: The presentation was not shared with the AMPC Co-Chairs since the DA, AF did send me a different Lunch-and-learn presentation about the impacts of the Trump Admin.