

**NABH Board of Trustees Call**

**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022**

**Minutes**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Members: Matt Peterson, board chair; Stuart Archer, Thomas Britton, Pat Connell, Mark Covall, Frank Ghinassi, Pat Hammer, Tess Hughes for Tom Kenny, Eric Kim, Richard Kresch, Dwight Lacy Drew Martin, Hank Milius, Jameson Norton, Eric Paul, Joe Pritchard, Scott Rauch, Jim Shaheen, Hyong Un, Deborah Weidner, David White, Susan Wright

Staff: Rochelle Archulta, Shawn Coughlin, Maria Merlie, Julia Richardson, Jessica Zigmond

**Absent**

John Hollinsworth, Jeffrey Woods, Ethan Permenter, Michael Radosta, Harsh Trivedi, Sean Walsh, Sarah Wattenberg

NABH President and CO Shawn Coughlin began the call with Roll Call at 4:06 p.m.

The purpose of the call is for the NABH BOT to approve the 2023 budget. Board members received the proposed 2023 budget and accompanying justification document before the call via e-mail.

Shawn said NABH will end 2022 strongly with a surplus of $293,302. NABH saw both growth within our membership and the average dues in the past year.

The pandemic has affected Annual Meeting attendance and also affected cost increased, so the association lowered expectations in this ara, NABH continues to see strong interest among exhibitors and sponsors for the Annual Meeting.

Shawn said staff salaries and rent for the association’s office remain stable.

Shawn highlighted three items:

1. Dues Estimates: Dues are increasing and some members have seen substantial increases in dues payments due to members’ internal growth. Shawn said he expects dues will come in higher.
2. The IPF-PPS project: NABH is engaged on the IPF-PPS initiatives and some members have been engaged with MedPAC. NABH set aside $200,000 to engage a firm to provide background information among our members related to the IPF-PPS.
3. Now that Rochelle Archuleta is on staff as EVP, NABH will phase out the contract work with government relations Thorn Run Partners in Q1.
4. Also, NABH will continue to engage Mark Covall for consulting services in 2023 ($85,000). Mark will retain his seat on the NABH Board of Trustees.

NABH investments remain solid and our investors said we are well diversified. The investors recommend that we make no adjustments.

In addition, NABH has solid reserves and Shawn said the association does not anticipate having to draw from those funds.

Shawn added that both the NABH Finance Committee and the NABH Executive Committee have approved the budget.

Joe Pritchard made a motion to approve the budget. Deborah Weidner seconded. All members approved the 2023 budget unanimously.

**Legislative Update**:

Shawn provided board members with a few legislative updates. He said the omnibus bill contains several thousand pages and it addresses some of NABH’s priority issues.

Among these is $4 billion to address the nation’s opioid crisis, an increase of $345 million from 2022.

The bill also includes 5.27 billon for mental health and to fund the 988 behavioral health crisis helpline.

Medicare Cuts: Shawn said about 30 different programs for mental health and SUD within SAMHSA and HRSA have been reauthorized in this bill.

The deal would keep additional PAYGO cuts, tied to the cost of the *American Rescue Plan*, from going into effect for two years, effectively staving off an additional 4% cut until at least 2025.

The bill includes a provision to expand parity requirements and require health plans to comply with parity. That is an

Shawn said the Senate is likely to vote tomorrow, Dec. 21 or possibly Thursday, Dec. 22. The House will then consider the legislation with the expectation Congress will conclude before the current continuing resolution expires.

**Regulatory Update**

Rochelle Archuleta provided some regulatory updates.

She reminded members that the latest edition of CEO Update includes news items about four recent regulations that were released. Three rules relate to insurance and the fourth relates to SAMHSA’s methadone prescribing process.

Rochelle said these rules collectively indicate CMS’ interest in transparency among insurers and the agency’s engagement in holding insurers accountable.

Medicare Advantage rule for 2024: Highlights include: the rule will exempt emergency services needed for mental health patients, and telehealth. In addition, the rule proposes to expand Essential Community Providers to include psychiatrists and social workers.

Next rule pertains to state exchanges in 2024; the rule would make mental health and SUD providers more prominent. NABH is pleased that the rule requires review of plans, including an assessment of provider availability. In particular, the rule calls for this assessment to evaluate the availability of mental health and SUD providers.

The third rule would create an electronic platform for the prior authorization process. The agencies will institutionalize some common-sense steps, such as: providing more consistent standards for requests and decisions; requiring payers to provide reasons for denials. In addition, time-based standards would be set for prior authorization with 72 hours and a seven-day turnaround. The rule lays out some technical provision for the prior authorization platform.

Finally, SAMHSA’s proposed rule would allow telehealth for CFR part 8. This rule moves the prescribing process toward decision-making process to providers and patients.

Rochelle turned the call back to Shawn, who gave a brief update on the association’s work to expand and enhance NABH’s work with government relations contacts at NABH member organizations. Shawn said the NABH team has identified more than 60 government relations contacts across our membership and have a more consistent government relations network within the association.

The call adjourned before 5 p.m. ET.