



Steve Sisolak
Governor

Dr. Ikram Khan
Chairman

Sara Chalhagian
Executive Director

Patient Protection Commission

Office of the Governor, State of Nevada

555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 5600
Las Vegas, NV 89103

SUMMARY MINUTES

December 14, 2020

Pursuant to Governor Steve Sisolak's Emergency Directive 006 as amended and extended by Emergency Directive 029, there will be no physical location for this meeting. The meeting can be listened to or viewed live over the internet. The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the Commission's meeting page or by request.

Agenda Item I - Call to Order

Chairman Khan called the regular meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Ikram Khan, Chairman
Dr. Howard Baron
Theresa Bohannon
Bobbette Bond
Jessica Flood
Flo Kahn
Dr. John Packham
Yarleny Roa Dugan
Shaun Schoener
Dr. Anthony Slonim

Advisory Commission Members Present:

Insurance Commissioner Barbara Richardson, Nevada Division of Insurance (Department of Business and Industry)
Director Richard Whitley, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Commission Staff Present:

Sara Chalhagian, Executive Director
Gregory D. Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General
Lezlie Mayville, Administrative Assistant/Policy Coordinator

Absent:

Voting Commission Member, Mason Van Houweling (excused)
Advisory Commission Member, Heather Korbolic (excused)

Agenda Item II - Public Comment:

The Honorable Shelley Berkley, representing Touro University

She explained to the Commission that she wanted to restrict her comments to Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding. She worked with Governor Sandoval to create state funding for this is very important educational issue and said Governor Sisolak is very supportive, as well. She wants the commission to know this is vital for Nevada in order to retain doctors and medical providers in our state. Statistics show that 70% of doctors stay in the communities where they have completed their residencies. Nevada's three university Medical Schools need funding to keep doctors from going elsewhere for residencies. Understanding there will be serious financial restrictions, now is not



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the time to cut funding for GME. She wants the PPC to think past the pandemic and support GME programs at the Legislature.

Agenda Item III - Approval of the November 30, 2020 minutes

The Commission was presented with an email draft of the summary minutes of the November 30, 2020 meeting.

MOTION was made to approve minutes of the November 30, 2020, meeting as presented, by Commissioner Slonim. Commissioner Baron Seconded. Carried without dissent.

Agenda Item IV - Opening Remarks - Overview of Agenda and Welcome

Chairman Khan is genuinely, honestly and deeply thankful to all Commissioners for their hard work and dedication this year. He wants them to know how much he really appreciates them.

Agenda Item V - Presentation on Uncompensated Care Costs for the Nation's Uninsured and Sources of Funding to Defray These Costs

Teresa A. Coughlin, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Michael Karpman, Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute

Some discussion after the presentation included but was not limited to mentioning research was mainly related to bulk of care being in a hospital setting, they do not study trends between rural and urban areas, how was "uncompensated" determined and was it cost of care or price of care. They use payments of subsidized care coming from private health insurance. One Commissioner asked if they use patient level data and what were the limitations of their studies. The presenters mentioned their focus was on non-institutional setting on the household level and more reflective of national health spending. Uncompensated care is 60% in hospitals which includes physicians and facilities. According to the slide, a commissioner was wondering how uninsured people can be spending less than fully insured for out-of-pocket expenses. It was explained this is due to the uninsured using less care in general. They are currently studying the differences between Medicaid expansion states and non-expansion states. It was also suggested Director Chalhagian distribute the Rand Study to the commission for more information. Another Commissioner wanted to know if there were any resources available for Nevada DHHS to do something similar. Director Whitley stated that our Biostatisticians can give the Nevada narrative.

Agenda Item VI - Presentations on Health Workforce Trends and Policy in Nevada

John Packham, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Office of Statewide Initiatives, University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine

Some discussion after the presentation included but was not limited to the fact that Nevada puts a lot of emphasis on putting money into education, but health care is never a priority that is addressed at the Legislative level for more funding. GME is so important, it needs to be a priority. One commissioner disagreed with the part of the presentation that said health care jobs were recession resistant knowing many epidemiologists (for example) that are out of work. Retention deterrents can be due to our cost of housing, especially for nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Their numbers are not factored in physician numbers. The most growth in Clark County is for Nurse Practitioners and Epidemiologists, maybe they could be on the payrolls of the larger casinos. One commissioner mentioned there is conflict at the Legislature with where GME dollars should go. The public sector needs those dollars because there is nowhere else they get funding. Public funding should go to support public institutions and Primary Care and Mental Health are still huge places to start. Another commissioner noted that in her everyday work experience as an RN, minorities are always the patients with lack of insurance and care. Also, are there any programs/funding to keep nurses in Nevada like the doctors? Packham answered we do not make the



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same investment in RN programs, but there are Advanced Practiced Registered Nurse (APRN) programs. It was also mentioned that Nevada must be careful not to bring in nurses from out of state that get paid less than our nurses and recommends incentive to get nurses to go to school in Nevada. It was pointed out that Nevada's community colleges have great nursing programs and it's a good place to start. A commissioner asked how Nevada compares to other states in how much we pay, and license new providers and he was told he does not have that information. Mental Health workforce shortage is severe and how can we improve is something the PPC needs to look at harder. Need to start recruiting for health care workers in high schools and emphasize STEM education at early ages and include all minorities. A commissioner told the group that the Clark County Medical Society does a shadow program to health care workers and is very successful. Fast track 7-year programs to 6 years, practioners need to be licensed in the state so there is recourse in case a practioner needs to be disciplined. The commissioners were told travel nurses were not included in the studies nor nurses from outside the United States but added that 30%-35% of foreign trained physicians are licensed here.

Agenda Item VII - Discussion of Report to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau

Director Chalhagian

Chair Khan asked the commissioner to chime in with suggestions for Director Chalhagian's report prior to 12/23/20. There is no time to meet again before the end of the year so call or email. One commissioner stated she wanted more input on concrete recommendations for future reports and another stated it would be beneficial to build a consensus within the group what to include in the report.

Agenda Item - VIII Standing Agenda Items

Discussion of Potential Agenda Items and Future Meeting Dates

A commissioner thought it would be a good idea to invite Sarah Hunt from the UNLV School of Medicine to present on Behavioral Health careers. Another commissioner would like a calendar of monthly meetings set up for the first half of the year after we see the Legislative committee meetings schedule. It would be easier to cancel a meeting at the last minute than rearrange work schedules.

Agenda Item - IX Public Comment

The Honorable Shelley Berkley, representing Touro University

Once again, she wanted to remind the Commission of the importance of GME funding for all Nevada Medical School graduates to keep them in Nevada through residency and beyond. She is hoping the PPC will support these efforts at the Legislature to increase funding and not be restrictive. Touro University takes no state money yet graduates 180 future doctors each year. The majority of them go into primary care, which is what Nevada needs most.

Commission Bohannon wanted to commend Commissioner Slonim on doing amazing work in our community and thanked him so much.

Director Chalhagian echoed thanks to Commissioner Slonim and wanted to express gratitude to each and every commissioner for all the work they've done this year on behalf of the Patient Protection Commission. Happy, Safe Holidays to all.



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Agenda Item - X Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lezlie Mayville
Office of the Patient Protection Commission

APPROVED BY:

Dr. Ikram Khan, Chair

Date: March 15, 2021

Meeting Materials

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER	DESCRIPTION
V.	Teresa A. Coughlin, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute	Presentation Uncompensated Care Costs for the Nation's Uninsured and Sources of Funding to Defray these Costs
VI.	John Packham, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Office of Statewide Initiatives, University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine	Presentation Health Workforce Trends and Policy in Nevada, Graduate medical Education Trends in Northern Nevada-2020, Graduate Medical Education Trends in Southern Nevada-2020, Graduate Medical Education Trends in Nevada-2020