



STATE OF WISCONSIN

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**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON  
REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES**

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**Meeting Minutes**

May 20, 2020

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Webinar via Zoom

**Welcome**

Nathan Houdek, OCI Deputy Commissioner and Task Force chair

- Deputy Commissioner Houdek welcomed Task Force members and public attendees and thanked Ms. Aubihl for her work setting up the meeting
- Quick recap of previous meetings:
  - First meeting in November
  - January discussed Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs)
  - February meeting heard more from PBMs and self-insured employers
  - March and April were canceled (postponed)
- Today's meeting will look at pharmacies and pharmacists
- Key housekeeping items
  - Use chat box during the presentation
- Revised 2020 work plan
  - June 18 – wholesalers and pharmacy services administrative organizations (PSAOs), hospital drug dispensing, and drug importation
  - July 21 and July 22 – the plan is to hold those meetings in Madison and/or they will be held virtually

**Consumer Experience**

- Mark Miller, a resident of North Freedom, Wisconsin in Sauk County
  - Mr. Miller has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and manages the expense of his prescriptions, including costly inhalers, on a limited income.
  - After paying for necessary costs, including housing, utilities, etc., and paying for his inhaler he is often left with less than \$50 at the end of the month.

**Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin**

Paul M. Cesarz, BS Pharm, R.Ph. – Manager System Community Pharmacy Professional Services, Mercyhealth Walworth Pharmacy

- A presentation from Mr. Cesarz is available on the Task Force website:  
<https://rxdrugtaskforce.wi.gov/Documents/PharmacySocietyOfWisconsin.pdf>

**Pharmacy Perspective**

Dan Strause – Managing Partner, Hometown Pharmacy

- A presentation from Mr. Strause is available on the Task Force website:  
<https://rxdrugtaskforce.wi.gov/Documents/HometownPharmacy.pdf>

**Free and Charitable Clinics and Pharmacies**

Ian Hedges, Chief Executive Officer, HealthNet of Rock County

Yolanda Tolson-Eveans, Pharmacist in Charge, St. Vincent De Paul Charitable Pharmacy

- A presentation from Mr. Hedges and Ms. Tolson-Eveans is available on the Task Force website:  
<https://rxdrugtaskforce.wi.gov/Documents/FreeCharitableClinics.pdf>



### **Task Force Member Policy Discussion**

Mr. Houdek asked the Task Force members to weigh in on initial thoughts around two documents that outline policy options. The documents reflect issues raised during Task Force meetings and those included in Assembly Bill 114/Senate Bill 100, which failed to advance through the Legislative process due to a shortened floor period resulting from COVID-19. Mr. Houdek pointed out that these bills may be voted on during an extraordinary session or re-introduced next session. The Task Force has not taken a position on the proposals.

Issues raised by Task Force members are reflected in documents for discussion only and are not policy recommendations at this point. Mr. Houdek asked members to look at the two documents and provide feedback via email before the next meeting. These documents will continue to evolve, and policy items will be included as the Task Force moves forward into new topics.

Task Force members briefly discussed the following issues during the last 20 minutes of the meeting:

- Reference to “claw back” on the AB 114/SB 100 document may need to be re-visited. Description in the table is an accurate explanation of a requirement in the legislation, however, there is some question around whether the provision highlighted aligns with the industry-standard explanation of what a “claw back” is. The term “claw back” may need to be dropped or replaced.
- There was much discussion and interest in capping co-payments for insulin. The issue was raised as an option for immediately impacting consumers with diabetes. For the purpose of discussion, not necessarily opposition, a member raised the issue of choosing between disease states. For example, the challenge between determining to cap co-pays for insulin as opposed to inhalers.
- A member indicated an interest in learning more about affordability boards.
- A general question was raised about whether PBM transparency has lowered costs to consumers in any other states. Mr. Houdek reminded the group that this question was asked by the Task Force at the last meeting. Presenters at that meeting indicated transparency efforts were too recently started to know an impact on cost and that it isn't necessarily trackable. It was also noted that the intent was more to increase access to the data and bring attention to certain drug prices and practices.
- A Task Force member would like to go back to the National Governor's Association (NGA) and ask about: (a) the potential impact of Haven Healthcare on the pharmaceutical industry; (b) the barriers to and benefits of a government based universal purchaser; and (c) what innovative programs or solutions pharmaceutical manufacturers have in progress to lower prescription drug prices. It was noted that the pharmaceutical manufacturer role and efforts will be discussed in detail at the July 21, 2020 meeting.

### **Adjourn**