

## Physician Practice Workgroup Meeting Minutes

### May 12, 2022

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
May 12, 2022	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Webinar and Conference Call

#### Participant Name and Attendance

Physician Practice Workgroup Members					
Rod Acosta	X	Lou Fiorillo		Atique Mirza	
Jean Ahn	X	Khuram Ghumman		Robin Gail Oshman	X
Rich Almada	X	Richard Goldstein	X	Theresa Riordan	
Marjorie Breen	X	Chris Hyers	X	Robert Russo	X
Ronald Ciesones	X	Dinesh Kapur	X	Michael Steinmetz	X
Jeff Cohen		Alan Kaye	X	Lisa Trumble	X
Alan Coker	X	Steven Lazarus	X		
Nicole Demers	X	Leland McKenna	X		
Others Present					
Members Absent					
Jeff Cohen		Atique Mirza			
Lou Fiorillo		Theresa Riordan			
Khuram Ghumman					

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1	<b>Call to order and motion to open meeting</b>	<b>Steven Lazarus</b>
	<p>The May scheduled meeting of the Physician Practice Workgroup was held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, via Zoom. The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. Steven Lazarus presiding. Attendance taken by roll call by Ron Ciesones. Steven then welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to open the meeting. Marjorie Breen made a motion to start the meeting and a second motion was followed by Robert Russo. The meeting was officially opened.</p>	
2	<b>Group Practice / Consumer Perspectives</b>	<b>Workgroup members</b>
	<p>Steven Lazarus indicated that we would like workgroup members who represent either group practices or consumers to share their perspectives on issues related to physician practices in addition to any other members who would like to make comments. He stated he and Ron Ciesones will take notes on topics and use them as a basis for our discussions moving forward over the next few months. We also want the perspectives from all groups including the hospitals and insurance providers. The work will eventually lead to a formal report later in the year.</p>	

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The group had two members that planned to present at this meeting. The members were Robert Russo and Alan Coker.

Robert Russo, a representative for specialty practices, prepared a slide presentation entitled *Recruitment and Retention of Physicians in Connecticut and the Disappearing Independent Practice of Medicine*.

Below are some of the items discussed in the presentation.

- Physician Recruitment and Retention: Connecticut Landscape which was about the inability to retain physicians trained in CT.
- Barriers to Physician Recruitment and Retention such as an aging medical population, lack of loan forgiveness, administrative burdens, and a hostile medical liability climate.
- The Disappearing Independent Practice due to administrative burdens such as prior authorizations and difficulty in negotiating with insurers.
- Physician Employment Landscape which shows an increase in hospital owned physicians over the last three years.
- Physician Recruitment and Retention Solutions such as loan forgiveness and changing the medical liability landscape.
- Preserving the Independent Practice of Medicine by fixing prior authorization issues and changing the ways physicians and insurers negotiate.

A copy of the Presentation can be found at the link below.

<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Content/Health-Care-Cabinet/Physician-Practice-Workgroup/Meeting-Agendas>

Alan Coker, a representative for consumers, gave a speech to the group on his life experiences with dealing with physicians. Some of his comments are provided below.

- He remembers when his physician came to his home to provide care.
- He indicated that it's difficult to find a physician these days as there are urgent care centers and walk in medical centers at local pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens.
- He likes having an independent physician so he can shop around for a specialist if he needs one.
- He said patients and physicians are getting lost in the paperwork shuffling.
- He feels there are issues with treating Medicare and Medicaid patients and that they are treated differently than other patients.
- He believes some (not all) physicians just worry about the bottom line.
- He indicated that he's proud to be working with this workgroup as it gives him hope that issues facing society may in some way be corrected.

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	<p>A discussion related to the presentations took place between members of the workgroup related to doctor and patient relationships, along with smaller physician groups affiliating with larger hospital owned groups or private equity groups. For more information, please see the meeting recording link on the May 12, 2022, Physician Practice Workgroup page noted above.</p> <p>Steven Lazarus thanked everyone for their comments.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Next steps for the workgroup</b>	<b>Steven Lazarus</b>
	<p>Steven indicated that he and Ron Ciesones are taking notes of the topics discussed today and working with members to do presentations over the next few months. He indicated that for June, he wants hospital members of the group and insurance company representatives to provide their viewpoints. Time will also be provided again for any physician members to speak. We'll be reaching out to consumers, hospitals, and insurance companies over the next month to get their perspectives on the workgroup's topics.</p> <p>There were some comments by members on if there was any data on the cost of care or price transparency. There was also discussion regarding if there was an overview of services and providers in CT and where those services and providers are located.</p> <p>As presentations and discussions wind down in the summer months, the hope is for group members to be broken into smaller groups so members can discuss the data that's been presented and to begin drafting suggestions on how to better improve oversight and regulation of physician groups in Connecticut.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Approval of the March 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Steven Lazarus</b>
	<p>Steven Lazarus asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting. Marjorie Breen made a motion to approve the minutes and a second motion was followed by Alan Coker. The minutes from the March 10, 2022, meeting were officially approved.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Steven Lazarus</b>
	<p>There was no public comment</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Steven Lazarus</b>
	<p>The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marjorie Breen and a second motion was made by Dinesh Kapur. The motion passed with no one abstaining and the meeting was officially closed. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.</p>	