



Katie Smith Sloan, Chair

Minutes – June 7, 2017

Katie Smith Sloan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10am.

First-timers welcome: Katie recognized and welcomed first-timers to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May meeting were approved without objection.

Guest Speakers:

- Bob Siggins, Alston & Bird, discussed the on-going efforts by the majority in the Senate to produce their own version of the House American Health Care Act (AHCA).
 - Noted that leadership is focused on concluding process in June; key test will be if they have a bill to get to CBO by Friday
 - Sees Republicans as speaking more positively despite no actual language; moving the goalposts on Medicaid, expansion, no real objections to change just how it ends up.
 - Expects Senate to be like House – opponents capitulate, pressure overcomes objections, something passes
 - Opponents don't have to win it all, just make some changes that makes it more palatable.
 - Do not underestimate McConnell's skills
 - Tax reform:
 - Recommends Drew Altman article discussing impact of changes to Medicaid on state revenues; 37% cuts that will have to be made up somehow.
 - Tax reform debate: budget neutrality a problem for social programs
- Jennifer Higgins, Chamber Hill Strategies
 - Described challenges facing Congressional leadership in this Administration
 - Harder to do things like fund the government, balance the budget, etc.
 - Repeal, replace = threading the needle = “getting across the finish line”
 - Senate could take the rest of the summer to debate AHCA/ACA
 - Key players:
 - Medicaid expansion states
 - Conservatives who want to “do it now”
 - Governors
 - Key issues:
 - Medicaid PCC as the next SGR/cliff
 - Medicaid expansion
 - CSR funding
 - Premiums, pre-x conditions
 - Tax credits – what happens?
 - High risk pools
 - Timing:
 - To vote before July recess:

- Parliamentarian must approve language
 - CBO must score revised drafts
 - And there needs to be consensus
- Will there be a Conference?
 - No, expect final version to be “baked”
- Process:
 - Senate was engaged in House process from the beginning, likewise House working with Senate
 - No new Senate bill, will use AHCA as foundation “rough draft”
 - Mood is “make it stop!” Senate more likely than not to move a bill sooner rather than later.

Committee Reports:

- Health Committee:
 - Howard and David discussed the latest news on “repeal and replace”, strategy, joint LCAO meetings with key Senators; sign-on letter to be circulated; media-press strategy;
 - Legislative update including chronic care bill; extenders/CHIP; BENES Act (sign-on letter); observation status; OTC hearing aid (sign-on letter)
- Income Security Committee report:
 - Discussed president’s budget; expect sign-on letter on SSDI and other cuts;
 - Legislative update on social security bills
 - Fiduciary Rule update
 - President’s tax proposals – impact on seniors if medical deductions eliminated; sign-on letter in the works.
- Community Service Committee report:
 - Discussed potential sign-on letter for Caregiving Corps Act
 - Update on FY 2018 budget proposals; core programs flat-funded but others cut
 - Drafting sign-on letter including all issues
 - Noted that appropriations committees still seem to be accepting proposals so continuing coalition meetings
 - Issue Brief on OAA programs in final draft

Governance Issues:

- The governance committee recommended that the application of the American Association of Service Coordinators to join LCAO be approved, and after motion and second, admission of the AASC was approved unanimously.
- The governance committee recommended that membership of the National Osteoporosis Foundation and the American Public Health Association be terminated for failure to follow membership obligations, including dues and participation in meetings, letters, committees. Recommendation moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

General Announcements:

- Katie thanked the co-chairs of the committees for their work during this year
- Katie handed the gavel to Howard Bedlin of NCOA, who will chair LCAO for the 2017-2018 year; Howard also thanked the current chairs and announced the next meeting will be July 5.
- Meeting adjourned at noon