



# Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

*James Firman, Chair*

## MINUTES

**May 2, 2018**

**AFSCME – 1625 L Street NW**

1. Guest Speaker: **Matt Eyles**, incoming President & CEO, and current Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
  - Membership: About 170 total, including big national plans, local and regional plans, some focused on specific programs, such as in Medicaid space, disability income insurance, long-term care, supplemental insurance, etc.
  - 2018 priorities: Value of Private Insurance Market, High-Cost Drugs, Medicare Advantage, Opioids / Mental Health, Value of Medicaid Managed Care, Health Insurance Tax, Employer and Financial Health & Wellness Products, Individual Market Stability
  - Also looking toward what health care system will look like in 2025 and role of health insurance providers. Want to help simplify consumer/patient experience, help them navigate health care system more effectively.
  - Discussion topics: Medicare Advantage, Medicare Drug Pricing, Medicare Managed Care / Duals Demos / MLTSS, Individual Market Stabilization
  - Response to question about new MA flexibilities in 2019:
    - Willing to work with LCAO groups on Medicare consumer decision making including those related to recommendations in recent Medicare Plan Finder report (specifically the suggestion that Medigaps be included), and getting ahead of potential marketing misconduct related to the new MA benefits.
    - With respect to AHIP's work on behalf of its Medigap (Medicare Supplemental Insurance) members, the organization is focused primarily on state-level compliance with changes pursuant to MACRA that will limit the types of policies sold to people eligible for Medicare after 1/1/20. AHIP is less focused on either rolling back these MACRA changes and/or expanding Medigap guarantee issue rights at the federal level.
  - Response to question regarding reaction to reports of losing insurance, Price comments:
    - Trying to do everything they can to stop erosion. Looking at future of individual market and what they can do.
  - Response to comment on subregulatory guidance on supplemental not covering SBDOH:
    - AHIP still pushing for it.
  - Response to question about proposed work requirements:
    - AHIP has principles on this as well as on drug testing, lifetime limits, civic and community engagement. They seem them as barriers to coverage. More active at state level.
  - Response to question on views on insuring long states in nursing homes, long-term care:
    - They're in the early stages, looking at policy options. Would welcome a conversation on what policies might help.
  - Response to question on whether there's a role for plans to address workforce shortages:
    - Haven't had a deep discussion, but it comes up frequently and they know they need to address it.
2. Guest Speaker: **The Honorable Henry Waxman**, Chairman, Waxman Strategies
  - Proud of achievements in Congress, still fighting for those causes.
  - Universal coverage
    - Recent op-ed: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/democrats-shouldnt-impose-litmus-tests-on-health-care/2018/04/08/1969b664-39b2-11e8-9c0a-85d477d9a226\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/democrats-shouldnt-impose-litmus-tests-on-health-care/2018/04/08/1969b664-39b2-11e8-9c0a-85d477d9a226_story.html).

- Advocated for single payer, but now thinks goal should be universal coverage given political realities.
- Medicare & Medicaid
  - Proud to have expanded Medicare & Medicaid, and ACA gave people opportunities to buy insurance and attempted to bend the cost curve.
  - Expansion of Medicaid coverage beyond those on welfare to make it mainstream coverage made it more insulated from attacks.
  - Yet will continue to see threats against Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Watch out for talk of entitlement reform.
- Response to question about educating older voters:
  - They look at self-interest in other ways. Don't recognize the government benefits they're already relying on are at risk. Health care will be a key issue – see Conor Lamb election. People are realizing who is taking away their insurance, chipping away at their coverage.
- Response to comment about reducing Medicaid eligibility:
  - He authored the Medicaid waivers. Don't want people to have to be in nursing home to get Medicaid help.
- Response to question on roadmap for incremental changes to achieve universal coverage:
  - Among other things, he would: increase subsidies available to help people afford insurance coverage; expand Medicare to cover more long-term care; and expand coverage and access to both dental and mental health services.
- Response to question on creating Medicare Part E supplemental coverage that people would pay into:
  - LTC should be insurable. Some thought private LTC insurance would be the answer. Worked on bill to give federal employees the opportunity to get LTC. Wanted to create minimal underwriting. Theory that people would buy private insurance turned out to be wrong. People think it's too expensive, can't assess what their future needs will be. Need coverage that covers people broadly, works with Medicare.
- Response to question on prioritizing Medicaid improvements:
  - What passed in ACA isn't what in place due to Supreme Court decisions. It expanded Medicaid to cover people based on income; wasn't intended for each state to choose income limits. Governors chose not to expand, when would've helped a lot of people, health care system, economy. Shouldn't be link to welfare; that link has been broken.
- Response to question on effective arguments to play defense on entitlement reform:
  - Deficits do matter. When have growing economy, tax cuts mean huge deficit, so can't deal with problems. When economy turns, can't invest in economy and maintain humane society, and will have problems with those deficits. Deficits can't be used as excuse for taking benefits away from seniors and others who depend on health care benefits. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid are popular programs and are supported by American people. Need to link all three when threats arise.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes
  - Approved by voice vote
- 4. Committee Reports
  - Community Services
    - Opted for conference call, since House Labor-HHS had public witness hearing at the usual time of meeting (Blancato testimony circulated in Apr. 27 News & Notices).
    - Discussed possibility of rescission package.
    - Budget reform commission – not top priority
    - Appropriations: FY18 funding a downpayment. Did some calculations – showed 30% increase needed to keep pace since 2010. Won't ask for that much - settled on 12%. Gearing up for Hill visits – see Google doc spreadsheet. Recognizing process moving more quickly this year so hope to move once LCAO letter done – by May recess/early June.
    - Older Americans Month: Discussed ACL tools, keeping each other informed about activities. No coordinated LCAO efforts apart from continuing to thank Congress for increases and raising awareness about OAA.
    - Farm Bill/SNAP: Expected on House floor week of May 7 or May 14. Call-ins and Twitterstorm May 9. Will circulate link to action alerts, new analyses by CBPP.

- Census letter discussion: Coalition letters not addressing seniors' issues, LeadingAge's Marsha Greenfield drafted letter to specifically mention why accurate Census count is important for many seniors' programs. Census report lists programs that could be affected. Not just immigration issue. Recommending letter ask relevant Senate Committee to have oversight hearing. Later: consider sign-on or template letter to respond to public notice from Interior. Edit suggested to note effect on OAA Title III programs; send other edits to Marsha ASAP.
- Health
  - Opioids legislation: House reported out several bills, Senate moving more slowly. Continuing to discuss what LCAO might request in final package. Casey bill on Medicare coverage of Methadone – looking for organizations' support.
  - MFP: Lot of Hill meetings, especially on House side. Have added House cosponsors; not hearing much from Senate. Hearing it's unlikely to be added to the opioids package because of interest in keeping bill clean and bipartisan, so more likely to move during lame duck if at all.
  - BIP 2.0: Anne Montgomery paper shred, working on legislation with Reps. Dingell and Guthrie.
  - Medicaid waivers: Link in minutes to amicus brief on KY case. Working on fact sheet on work requirements and seniors. Several states moving forward on work requirements; AZ retroactive coverage waiver gone to CMS and is open for comment. Non-LCAO sign-on letter to close Friday, but share if need extension (Jane Sheehan with FamiliesUSA with more information).
  - Proposed/pending rules: Discussed current ones including expectation that public charge will be issued soon. Protecting Immigrant Families campaign will have templates available for comments.
  - Guest Speaker – Liz Jurinka: Shared opioids legislative efforts and expected timeline. Also focused on ACA marketplace and oversight of Administration efforts. Letter sent from 47 Senators on limited duration. Looking at drug pricing, especially on HHS plans to use CMMI aggressively. Open to other ideas for legislation to move and comments to file. Happy about Chronic Care Act passing.
  - Medicare Plan Finder: Report released; interested in doing letter to follow up.
- Income Security
  - Guest speaker - Jeremy Woodrum, Office of Rep. Joe Crowley: Re-introducing retirement account bill. Looking for organization support.
  - Guest speaker – Keith Miller, Senate Aging: Bill under consideration on widow and survivor benefits. In beginning stages, so reach out with comments.
  - SSA field offices – Rally in Rosslyn on May 3 about field offices closing. Tracking new closures as leases come up. GSA saying can't find space – see minutes.
  - Legislative Updates: Rental housing reforms, retirement commission work. Wyden Elder Poverty Relief Act, Higgins SSA Accountability Act, Sanchez Strengthening Social Security Act.
  - May 30 meeting: Planning presentation from PBGC on multi-employer pensions.
- 5. Announcements
  - Friends of the National Institute on Aging (FoNIA) May 9 briefing: flyers available and shared in LCAO News and Notices
  - WEAAD Global Summit and EJCC meeting: see announcement in News & Notices. Register to clear SEC security.