CLINICIANS UNITED MINUTES

12/5/2022

PRESENT: David Holt (SEIU), Christine Miller, Heidi Page, Dave Meischner, Allison Doyle, Debi Warner, Shawn Hassell, Scot Wilson, Paul Thorington

There was no formal agenda, but we processed the meeting with Anthem and any steps we might take at this point. It was agreed that it is unlikely that Anthem will do anything soon about allowing pre-licensed providers under supervision to accept Anthem reimbursement. We also agreed that since other insurance companies are allowing this, they will have to allow it eventually. Dave Meichner pointed out that Anthem’s largest stockholder is currently a hedge fund (BlackRock). He said this makes them more interested in profit than subscriber/provider satisfaction. It was suggested that rather than having subscribers who can’t access services in a timely manner call the company, that we ask them to go to their HR Department or the people who contract with Anthem. If contracts are canceled because of lack of provider availability or the contractor calls Anthem, they may take the problem more seriously.

It was also pointed out that Anthem network paneling still takes months. Chris asked why pre-licensed providers have to be W2 employees. Apparently this is a state regulation, not an insurance company requirement.

Debi Warner raised the issue of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification is restructuring its rules to make all 52 boards (the website says 40+) more uniform, especially with regard to complaints. Debi said that Mental Health and Psychology boards do not have to release their records to the Attorney General unless, after investigation, the complaint is determined not to be frivolous. This is not true of all boards and not the case in other states. She encouraged us to contact Lindsey Courtney, Director of OPLC, who is in charge of re-writing the rules. Debi said that there was a study committee under SB330, regarding licensing, but these issues were not in their final report.

We asked David to have the SEIU Political Director monitor any bills regarding licensure. He said the 2023 LSRs have not yet been released.

Since the SEIU Board has approved Clinicians United as a Chapter, we now need by-laws and he asked for volunteers to write them. There is a template provided by SEIU. Chris Miller and Paul Thorington volunteered and will meet on Zoom on 1/12 at noon. Others are encouraged to join.

Our next meeting is Monday 1/9/23 (1/2 is a legal holiday) at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Miller, LCMHC