



It's Time to Add Your Voice

PNHPWW January Meeting Monthly Report

Introductions – Jim Squire, Vice-President, PNHPWW – 22 attending

Coordinator's Report – David McLanahan, Coordinator, PNHPWW

Pramila Jayapal, CD7, co-sponsored HR676!

Email list – 846, Unique web site visits December - 1,229

PNHPWW database project – last 3 PNHP years dues-paying members, WA State, by LD&CD – 322

Health Care Movie “Now is the Time” screening opportunity last week in February. Discussion – SP organizations will work together to have a screening

Two new national fightback coalitions:

- 1) **HOPE - Health Over Profit for Everyone** – Official launch Feb 1st. Focused on organizing for national SP legislation HR676. Initiated by Margaret Flowers, Kevin Zeese and others. New website under construction with **links to sign on as organizations & individuals**.

<http://healthoverprofit.org>; **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/HealthOverProfit.org/>;

Twitter - https://twitter.com/H_O_P4E

- 2) **Campaign for Guaranteed Healthcare** - launched on 1-26-17 by Healthcare-Now! – “a fightback coalition that will carry out a nationally-coordinated, large-scale and militant campaign to fight for single-payer healthcare”. <https://campaignforguaranteedhealthcare.org>

Past Events:

January 4th - Health Care is a Human Right meeting - More than 80 attendees, representing more than 40 organizations agreed that HCHR-WA will be a main WA State coalition to resist expected threats to the ACA, Medicaid and Medicare, and to press forward to guarantee health care for all.

Events related to the new Trump administration:

1. Jan 15th - Rally to Protect Healthcare - Westlake Park. Bannered
2. Jan 16th - MLK, Jr. Day Celebration workshop on single payer (great job Betty Capehart and Sally Soriano – standing room – approx. 60 attended), rally and march. Carried banner.
3. Jan 21st - Women's Day March in Seattle

Future Events:

February 8th, 4pm - Health Care is a Human Right meeting – WSLC office, 16th Ave & Yesler.

Feb 15th, 7:30pm - PNHPWW Monthly Meeting - Swedish/Cherry Hill, SECC, Rm A – topic TBD

PNHPWW 2017 Annual Public Meeting - a work in progress

Single Payer Strategy Conference in NYC

Reports from three participants - representing:

- [Whole Washington](#) - Georgia Davenport (audio).
Joined the march on Trump Tower before the conference. 500 people – ran out of space in main hall & overflow rooms. Keynote speaker Nina Turner, Ohio State Senator, set a nice tone with her organizing principle - “**soft on the people, hard on the issues.**” We need to listen to & work with everyone, no matter his or her background. We need to make allies. **Three tactics to get to single payer** – 1) national strategies - HR676; 2) SP bills in state legislatures; 3) State initiative process – this is what Whole Washington is working on. **Q-** how did WW get started? Georgia has worked on other initiatives in WA & was interested in the Colorado initiative.
- [HCFA-WA](#) - Marcia Stedman (audio)
Main lessons – 1) get out of our silos & work with other allied organizations & those working on other social justice issues under attack – help them with their actions & initiatives. Nourish the larger movement; 2) educate & organize – recommends Les Leopold’s book – [Runaway Inequality](#). We need a common agenda and analysis such as Bernie Sanders provided in his run; 3) we need a new national movement organization; 4) we need a new activist identity; 5) we need movement builders. 6) we have a values argument – appeal to the moral issue (universal healthcare); 7) use healthcare as a wedge issue for allied issues. Now the big national conversation is around health care. Now it’s our turn to ask other allies to support us, endorse our bills, march with us; 8) importance of millennials in this struggle; 9) be always on the offense, even when there is defense to do; 10) be angry, outraged, and loud at the mic; 10) claim everything you win - “we did it! And this is how.” 11. keep an open heart – soft on the people, hard on the issues. People who oppose the ACA may be open to single payer.
- **PNHPWW and United for SP** - Jim Squire (audio)
Workshops – “Defense/Offense” & “Single payer states plans for 2017. Exciting & energetic – people left with a very positive outlook. Five main themes: 1) defense/offense. On defense side – oppose cuts to any of the current health care systems – the ACA & other safety nets. But we do not support only the defense. Lots of rallies are only defensive. State and/or national plans? – lots of people spoke to that. This is our time – to be active for single payer. The ACA is falling apart and there is a tremendous void to be filled. Reach out & building bridges to those you might not think would be allies. Don’t be cautious of going to fast, too radical (ref MLK). Build broad coalitions. Nina Turner – hard on issues/soft on people. Strong on opposing racism in all its forms in everything you do. Diversify organization boards. Don’t rely on Democratic Party - undercutting single payer bills. Healthcare-Now! Is launching a new national campaign – Campaign for Guaranteed Health Care (see above link). California single payer groups are coming together – better shot at getting a SP bill passed. Colorado initiative – even though they lost decisively, they developed a large cadre of grassroots organizers – thousands – that will be important for what comes next.

Discussion - led by Jim Squire

1) What will happen in WA State if ACA is repealed? (audio)

Trump & Republicans may screw things up so badly lots of space will open up for other plans. If/when the ACA mandates and marketplace supplements are taken away – the insurance companies may be scared out of most markets. Two large coalitions are concerned with this: 1) Healthy WA Coalition – mainstream orgs, close to Dems – lobbying for 6-8 legislative priorities. Unlikely to join fight for a state single payer plan; 2) HCHR-WA – now focused on fighting cuts in ACA – lobbying. State Republicans have nothing out there now. If/when ACA is repealed, SP would be the most realistic system. If Congress block-grants Medicaid, there would be more federal dollars for a state single payer

plan. Good time to put out SP as the only clear alternative. HCHR-WA may become a driver for a state single payer plan.

2) Next steps – Where do we go from here in Western Washington (audio)

Several coalitions and organizations have staked out the defensive position against the looming threats to health care. The mess that Trump is creating is opening up a lot of space to replace the ACA with what will move us to where we need to be.

Whole Washington wants to finish putting its Board together and find a permanent campaign director. Wants to do a ballot initiative for a state single payer plan. Talking on the *Slack* platform – find how to join their *Slack* group on their [Facebook page](#).

We need to be collecting personal stories - very effective in organizing.

HCFA-WA is in process of hiring a part-time program director to help organizing across the state, particularly in Eastern WA.

Chance to elect a Democrat to an open Senate seat in E. WA – Dems can take back control of Senate.

[Washington Health Security Trust](#) bill is now in the WA. House, going to be a slightly different version in Senate very soon.

Single payer advocates need to work together to stake out the offensive position to move forward towards Medicare for All at the national level, and a state single payer plan in WA State.

The time is ripe for organizing – health intersects with most of the other social justice issues that are also under attack. We can help build the “movement of movements.” Will seek to set up an initial “summit” meeting between PNHPWW, HCFA-WA, United for Single Payer, Whole Washington and Our Revolution to discuss how we can best work together to leverage our strengths.

Other News:

We are working to make our social media more useful. Please submit/share important info, articles, events on our [Facebook site](#) - <https://www.facebook.com/pnhpww>

Working on technology to live-stream our monthly meetings on our [You Tube channel](#) - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx_TkWg9tFnCKGnO9F-iEeQ - if you might like to tune in to a livestream or check it out, please send an email to pnhp.westernwashington@comcast.net

1. A RAND study funded by the Oregon legislature was released last week that describes four options for financing health care for residents of the state of Oregon and compares the projected impacts and feasibility of each option. The options: 1) Status Quo - the state would maintain its expansion of Medicaid and subsidies for nongroup coverage through the ACA Marketplace; 2) Single Payer; 3). public financing pool for coverage in commercial health plans for all Oregon residents (including undocumented immigrants) except Medicare beneficiaries, who would retain their Medicare coverage 4) the remaining option would add a state-sponsored plan to the ACA Marketplace.

2. New *Washington Post* article by PNHP’s Himmelstein and Woolhandler - “Repealing the Affordable Care Act will kill more than 43,000 people annually - The impact of Republicans' war on

Obamacare is likely to be worse than anyone expects”.