



**Healthix Board of Director Meeting Minutes**  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 4:00pm-5:30pm**

**Board Attendees via telephone:**

- David Cohen, MD, Healthix Chair
- Thomas Early, Nassau Queens Performing Provider System
- David Leventhal, Pfizer
- Paul Casale, MD, New York Quality Care ACO
- Louise Cohen, Primary Care Development Co.
- Michael Bouton, MD, NYC Health + Hospitals
- Robert Chaloner, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital
- Irene Koch, Hospital for Special Surgery
- Art Gianelli, St. Luke's Hospital
- Matthew Siegler, NYC Health + Hospitals
- Larry McReynolds, NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers
- David Schimel, New York Medical Staff Leadership Council
- Anup Vidyarthi, The Stepping Stones Group
- Michael Guarino, IPA of Nassau/Suffolk Counties, Inc.
- Alexander Izaguirre, PhD, MBA, NYC Health + Hospitals
- Fred S. Sganga, Long Island State Veterans Home
- Donna Rey, 1199SEIU Benefit and Pension Funds

**Absent:**

- Charles King, Housing Works

**Healthix Management:**

- Todd Rogow, President and CEO
- Vivienne Destefano, SVP Corporate Affairs
- Tom Moore, SVP, Innovation
- John Guastella, SVP, Finance & CFO
- Nick VanDuyne, SVP, CIO
- John Chow, CISO
- Magdalena Mandzielewska, Privacy Officer, Sr. Director of Compliance
- Maureen O'Connor, VP Customer Experience
- Kathleen Kahn, VP Business Development
- Kaitlin Flaherty, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.

**Approval of the following Action Items:**

- **Minutes from March Board Meeting:** The meeting minutes of March 2021 were approved.
- **New Member, Marc d. Paradis, to the Board of Directors:** Board Members voted to approve Mr. Paradis.
- **New Committee Assignments:** Board Members approved Tom Early as Secretary and the appointments of Matt Siegler and Irene Koch to the Executive Committee.
- **PPP Loan Forgiveness:** Board Members approved of going forward with PPP Load Forgiveness, with one dissention.
- **Chase Brokerage Account/Liquidity Management Strategy:** Board Members approved of the new Strategy.

**Report of the Chairperson**

Dr. Cohen addressed recent funding opportunities available through a Federal-State Waiver proposal which is designed to reduce racial, disability-related and socioeconomic health disparities. Dr. Cohen focused on the role of QEs in the governance of Health Equity Regional Organizations (HEROs) which is part of the Waiver proposal. He recommended the Board watch closely as the Waiver develops, with an eye toward how health information exchange can play a key role. NYeC will meeting with QE leadership later in the year to discuss further. Dr. Cohen then reviewed the Governance

Committee report. The Committee nominated a new member, Marc Paradis, Vice President, Data Strategy at Northwell Health. His candidacy was brought before the Board and his membership was unanimously approved. There is still one vacant Board seat, and Dr. Cohen supports filling it with an independent practitioner, fulfilling Healthix's requirement as specified by the DOH and NYeC. Louise Cohen, Executive Director of PCDC has been asked to help identify a candidate.

The Governance Committee also made recommendations for various committee assignments. Tom Early will now serve as Healthix's Secretary in addition to his current role of Treasurer on the Executive Committee. Board Members Matthew Siegler and Irene Koch will serve on the Executive Committee. The Board unanimously approved these new assignments.

The meeting of the Board was adjourned, and the meeting of the Members was opened. The members approved the actions taken by the Board. The Member meeting was adjourned, and the Board meeting commenced.

### **Committee Reports**

Mr. Early provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting that took place on June 4, 2021. The auditors from O'Connor Davies attended and felt Healthix was in a good position to move forward with forgiveness of the loan obtained under the Federal Payroll Protection Program (the "PPP" loan). The Committee recommended Healthix pursue this path, with one member of the Committee opposed. Also discussed was a Liquidity Management Strategy, as Healthix is in a financial position to invest excess cash not immediately needed for operations. The Committee recommended investing up to \$8 million into a brokerage account and develop an investment policy. Finally, the Committee discussed the implementation of a new PEO (Professional Employer Organization), with Healthix transitioning from ADP to Prestige. This move is estimated to bring major savings for both Healthix and the employees.

Mr. Guastella summarized the Financial Results for the first quarter of 2021. Healthix missed some metrics during this quarter, however NYeC reallocated funds to the QEs, with Healthix receiving \$682,028 more than anticipated. With respect to revenue from Partnerships and Participant Fee Revenue, there is approximately \$580,000 in deferred revenue on the balance sheet which can be realized as revenue in 2021 once the projects are completed. In addition, there is approximately \$200,000 in revenue that can be recognized for the NY Leads project in 2021, once completed. Additional revenues are expected from projects in flight. Total revenue for Q1 was \$5,065,387. Budgeted expenses include \$25,000 for an Innovation Fund and \$50,000 for a Contingency Fund. In Q1, \$37,240 has been incurred in Innovation Fund Expenses. Overall, Healthix's net income for Q1 was \$296,605 over budget.

Mr. Guastella next went into more detail regarding the Liquidity Management Strategy. He specified Healthix has approximately \$15 million in cash, the highest cash position in the history of Healthix. To increase interest but keep a liquid account with safe investments, Healthix worked with Chase Bank to open a new account. While there is always some degree of risk, this account would be closely monitored. There will be a cash reserve for 6 months of roughly \$1.9 million per month. The Board unanimously approved of moving forward with the strategy.

Mr. Guastella then provided further detail regarding the PPP loan. Under PPP rules, Healthix has until August 16<sup>th</sup> to repay the fund or obtain forgiveness. If approved by the Board, Mr. Guastella would submit the proper documentation in time for this deadline. As Healthix made a good faith estimate in assessment in May 2020 with a loan of under \$2 million, it would qualify for forgiveness under the safe harbor rules. While Healthix had a profitable 2020 and expects a similar result for 2021, this is not a determining factor in the forgiveness application. The Board approved the application with one member opposed.

### **NYeC 2021 Goals & Funding**

Mr. Rogow reported on the NYeC 2021 Goals and Funding. Healthix expects to meet all the participation goals for the year. The current focus is DFF (data fields and formats) for hospitals and physicians, with an expectation of closing some of the gap by the next Board meeting in September. The next major focus will be DFF for clinics and long term care facilities. System uptime is good for May 2021, however Healthix missed two earlier months. The goal is to stay above

the average for the rest of the year to make up for those months and earn the full funding. He also noted the Customer Satisfaction (NORC) Survey is coming up. Last year Healthix earned half of the possible funding, and Mr. Rogow hopes to earn the full amount this year.

### **Data Quality initiatives**

Last year was an unusual year which brought attention to the quality and comprehensiveness of Healthix's data. Beginning in January, Mr. Rogow announced Healthix would take part in several initiatives to improve the organization's data quality. The first of these initiatives focus on patient "overlays" and sharing this information with hospitals every month. There is also the HERDS (Health Electronic Response Data Systems) grant, identifying areas within standard reports, especially COVID, allowing Healthix to take some of the workload off the hospitals. NCQA certification will start at the end of July which will certify the data that Healthix receives from its participants and makes available for State reporting. This certification would especially put Healthix in a good position with health plans, especially for meeting HEDIS measures and identifying gaps. The ADT initiative has been underway with United Healthcare and when successfully completed will expand to others. This will ensure the quality and completeness of the data. All these efforts will ultimately support Healthix's services.

The largest effort revolves around Terminology Mapping. Healthix has selected CareCom, a partner of J2, and their application HealthTerm. The cost of investment is \$390,000. Based on feedback from the Clinical Committee, the major focus will be lab results, vaccine data, and diagnoses codes. Ms. Koch asked for clarification regarding the scope of this work. Mr. Rogow clarified that Healthix will purchase this service and retain the original data. Healthix will work with the hospitals to implement the results.

### **Company Updates**

Ms. DeStefano discussed Patient Access and Data Blocking. The federal Information Blocking Rule went into effect on April 5, 2021, entitling patients to all their data, including data that HIEs hold. If HIEs do not comply they face penalties in excess of \$1 million. Healthix has been collaborating with the Privacy Committee members, Greater New York Hospital Assoc., and legal counsel to create a plan of action. On June 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a special session to share what is happening in the country as well as in New York State, especially since Healthix is bound by provisions in SHIN-NY and Federal Policies. Healthix is working with a vendor, MDLand, to make Healthix data available to patients through a proprietary application.

Ms. DeStefano provided an update regarding QE Certification. Healthix has completed 80-90% of the audit. The plan is to have everything completed by June 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rogow thanked the Healthix team for their work, as this is a new process involving a great deal of effort.

Mr. Moore discussed EMS integration, something that has been in discussion for quite some time. As of June 2021, Northwell began sending Healthix data from the Center of Emergency Medical Services. Also, in collaboration with REMSCO, Healthix has recruited 17 independent EMS agencies.

Healthix has also partnered with the NYCDOHMH on a project to provide ED and Inpatient visits for students with known diagnoses of asthma, diabetes, and severe mental health. This data is being used by the Office of School Health (OSH) for patient outreach, care coordination and helping patients manage their conditions. The project covers 97% of OSH patients registered in Healthix.

Mr. VanDuyne discussed four of the current NYeC I&I (Innovation and Interoperability) Grants. The deliverables for the FHIR grant have been met and are laying the groundwork for a statewide FHIR infrastructure. The Data Segmentation deliverables have been met as well. For the CMS ADT Alert Grant, Healthix was the only QE to meet all 6 deliverables. Finally, for the COVID-19 Patient Registry, all milestones and deliverables have been met.

Dr. Cohen adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.