



**Joe Lombardo**  
Governor

**Florence Jameson, MD**  
Chairwoman

**Russell Cook**  
Executive Director

# Silver State Health Insurance Exchange

2310 South Carson Street, Suite 2

Carson City, NV 89701

T: 775-687-9939

F: 775-687-9932

[www.nevadahealthlink.com/sshix](http://www.nevadahealthlink.com/sshix)

## Silver State Health Insurance Exchange (SSHIX)

### Board Meeting

### Draft Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

#### **Meeting Location:**

Zoom and Teleconference, or 2310 South Carson St., Suite 3A, Carson City, NV 89701

#### **Members Present**

##### **Zoom:**

Florence Jameson, MD  
Valerie Clark  
E. Lavonne Lewis  
Dr. Sarah Friedman  
Jonathan Johnson  
Amber Torres  
Quincy Branch  
Scott Kipper Non-Voting Ex-Officio  
Shauna Tilley, Representing  
Jenny Helton, Non-Voting Ex-Officio  
Stacie Weeks Non-Voting Ex-Officio

#### **Members Absent**

Jenny Helton, Non-Voting Ex-Officio

#### **Staff Members Assisting**

Russell Cook, SSHIX  
Janel Davis, SSHIX  
Katie Charleson, SSHIX  
Kaitlyn Blagen, SSHIX  
Tiffany Davis, SSHIX  
Kassie Fuentes, SSHIX  
Radhika Kunnel, DAG

## **I. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, Announcements**

Chair Dr. Jameson called the 1:30 p.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken by Executive Director, Russell Cook; a quorum was noted.

## **II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**III. Approval of the minutes of the December 14, 2023 Board Meeting. For Possible Action.**

Amber Torres abstained from the vote.

The following action was taken:

**MOTION To approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023 Board meeting.**

**BY: Mr. Johnson**

**SECOND: Mr. Branch**

**PASS: Unanimously**

**IV. Executive Director Report: Report providing updates on topics that cover matters of the Exchange.**

**a. Revised Format for Executive Director Report [Discussion]**

Russell Cook explained that beginning with today's meeting, the format of the Executive Director's report is being revised to allow for comments or questions from the Board following the conclusion of each section.

**b. General Comments [Discussion]**

Russell Cook provided the Board with an overview of the Exchange's activities and proposed upcoming activities.

**c. Workshop Approach to Public Comment Solicitation [Discussion]**

Russell Cook discussed the workshop approach to public comment solicitation and noted that the Exchange looks forward to pilot testing the workshop format for its upcoming revisions to the Exchange's Language Access Plan.

**d. Personnel Updates [Discussion]**

Russell Cook informed the Board that the Exchange is currently operating with 25 of its 27 positions filled, representing only a 7-percent vacancy rate, the lowest since the COVID pandemic.

**e. Open Enrollment Review [Discussion]**

Russell Cook provided the Board with an overview of this year's open enrollment.

**f. Medicaid Unwinding [Discussion]**

Russell Cook provided the Board with an update on Medicaid unwinding, which continues to be ongoing.

**g. Tribal Sponsorship [Discussion]**

Russell Cook indicated that the Exchange continues to build momentum with its tribal sponsorship program.

Dr. Jameson commended Director Cook on the work that's been done, requested feedback from new Board Member and Tribal Representative, Amber Torres, and indicated that the Nevada Exchange is a role model for Exchanges nationwide.

Ms. Torres congratulated the Exchange on their work and discussed her role as a tribal leader when the Exchange was first brought forward and the enormous transition and learning curve this was for tribes.

Ms. Weeks asked how many tribal members are enrolled.

Russell Cook indicated his belief that approximately 1,500 tribal members have enrolled.

Amber Torres noted that in the beginning enrollment for natives was very low because they do not quite understand how it works in conjunction with their coverage through Indian Health Services but that this number can increase given that there are 28 tribes in Nevada.

**V. Marketing and Outreach Update presented by the Exchange and Marketing Partner, The Abbi Agency**

Connie Anderson, The Abbi Agency, and Peter Mitchell, Marketing for Change, provided the Board with an update on marketing and outreach.

Chair Jameson commended the Abbi Agency on the work they've done.

Mr. Kipper questioned if the number of enrollees has declined.

Katie Charleson noted that the Exchange is reaching out to those who did leave the Exchange and canceled their auto renewal.

Russell Cook clarified the distinction between the new enrollees and population of those leaving the Exchange.

**VI. Adoption of 2025 Carrier Premium Fees to be charged to insurers. See on website posted NOTICE OF HEARING OF FEES TO BE CHARGED TO INSURERS.**

Chair Jameson indicated that the adoption of the 2025 Carrier Premium Fees is an action item for the Board.

Stacie Weeks requested background on the reasoning behind the increase.

Russell Cook provided an explanation for Ms. Weeks and the Board regarding her question and why the fee is decreasing.

Scott Kipper questioned if the Exchange had taken the reduced level and projected it into what reserves would remain at the end of the year.

Jonathan Lopez indicated that the Exchange projects out to the next biennium.

Stacie Weeks questioned if there is broad authority to use that funding.

Jonathan Lopez noted that the Exchange does not have the authority to either reduce or increase subsidies for consumers.

Chair Jameson asked what percentage the Exchange tries to maintain in its reserve of the annual budget.

Russell Cook and Jonathan Lopez indicated that they will come back to the Board with this answer at a future meeting.

The following action was taken:

**MOTION**     **To adopt the 2025 Carrier Premium Fees**

**BY:**           **Ms. Torres**

**SECOND:**     **Mr. Johnson**

**PASS:**         **Unanimously**

**VII. Language Access Plan implementation and Proposed Solicited Public Comment time period per Assembly Bill 266 and Assembly Bill 480 passed in 2023 Legislative Session, related to NRS 232.0081. The proposed public comment time period will allow for the public to submit via email a public comment and/or participate in one of two Public Comment Workshops.**

Janel Davis provided an overview of the Language Access Plan implementation and proposed solicited public comment time period.

The following action was taken:

**MOTION**     **To approve the additional services for the Language Access Plan implementation and solicited public comment time as requested by AB 266 and AB 480.**

**BY:**           **Ms. Lewis**

**SECOND:**     **Ms. Clark**

**PASS:**         **Unanimously**

**VIII. Discussion and possible action regarding dates, times, and agenda items for future meetings**

Tiffany Davis read some of the chat notifications into the record. Ms. Davis then indicated that the next Board meeting is set for Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

**IX. Public Comment**

None.

**X. Adjournment**

Dr. Jameson thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT