

Representative Paul Demakis,
John O'Neill, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services and
Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

At the conclusion of the discussions it was agreed that additional meetings would be held to continue discussions on this issue.

Mr. O'Brien requested Ms. Pat Norton to make a commitment to return within three to four weeks to reconvene the discussions. Ms. Norton stated that she would commit to continue the discussion. Mr. O'Brien would arrange the next meeting.

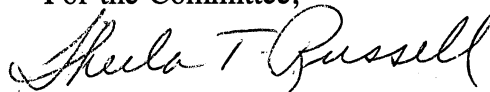
Ms. Eileen Ginnetty, Joan Gillis and Mr. O'Brien would formulate a plan to "get the word out to the community" about the prescription drug benefit program. Ms. Gillis would develop this plan.

Mr. O'Brien stated that the pharmaceutical companies should be invited to the next meeting to give their counterpoint on this issue. He would arrange for a forum to be set up to hear from the pharmaceutical companies.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. O'Brien stated that if all the HMO eliminate their transitional prescription programs in the year 2000 the City will have a big problem.

The hearing adjourned at four o'clock and ten minutes p. m.

For the Committee,



Councillor Sheila T. Russell,
Chair

City of Cambridge

In City Council February 22, 1999

The Elder Affairs Committee and the Cambridge Health Alliance held the first in a series of meetings on Tuesday, February 9, 1999 at two o'clock and fifteen minutes p.m. at the Harvard Faculty Club, 10 Quincy Street.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss changes in the prescription drug reimbursement programs with the various HMO's.

Present at the meeting were:

Councillor Sheila Russell, Chair of the Elder Affairs Committee,
Councillor Kathleen Born,
Eileen Ginnetty, Director, Cambridge Senior Center,
Susan Pacheco, Cambridge Senior Center,
Loring Conant, MD, Medical Director, Senior Health Center,
John O'Brien, CEO, Cambridge Public Health Authority,
Joan Gillis, Assistant to CEO of the Cambridge Public Health Authority,
Barbara Ackermann, Chair, Geriatrics Task Force, Cambridge Health Alliance,
Richard deFilippi, PhD, Chair, Cambridge Health Alliance Board of Trustees,
Paul Vitale, Director of Elder Service Plan,
Julie Rosen, Assistant Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, Tufts Health Plan,
Jay Curley, Director of Public and Regulatory Affairs, Blue Cross, Blue Shield,
Ellen Offner, Vice President, Medicare program, Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan,
Pat Norton, Department of Medical Assistance,
Jay Himmelstein, MD, MPH, Director of UMass Center for Health Policy and Health Services Research; representing Senator Edward Kennedy's Office,
Kate Auspitz, Representative from Congressman Capuano's Office,
Glenn Tagliamonte, representative from Representative Jarrett Barrios's Office,
Fred Cabral, representative from Representative Timothy Toomey's Office,
Representative Alice K. Wolf,

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A report from Councillor Russell,
Chair of the Elder Affairs Committee
for a meeting by the Elder Affairs
Committee and the Cambridge Health
Alliance on February 9, 1999, to discuss
changes in the prescription drug
reimbursement programs with various
HMO's.

In City Council February 22, 1999

Report Accepted

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