

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

January 12, 1983

The Honorable Arthur J. Clark
Mayor, City of Waltham
City Hall
610 Main Street
Waltham, MA 02154

Dear Mayor Clark:

I am convening a workshop of officials of the Commonwealth's larger cities and towns, with the cooperation and support of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, on February 10, 1983, to discuss a problem which has reached crisis proportion in Cambridge and, I think, throughout Massachusetts--THE EXCESSIVE COST OF GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE. Health insurance accounts for over 5 percent of the budget for the City of Cambridge and has increased by almost 50 percent in three years, with no end in sight. I believe the Cambridge experience typifies that of many, if not most, of the other large municipalities.

The purpose of the February 10 workshop is to consider what we can do individually and collectively to reduce or contain health care costs. I have asked our attorney, Allan W. Drachman, of Holland, Crowe & Drachman, and Economist-Consultant Lawrence Kirsch, Director of Consumer Health Advocates, Inc., who have been working on this issue with us for the past six months, to share their ideas and experience regarding litigation, regulatory change, and negotiation options which might be available. I have also invited representatives from the private sector, government and unions to address possible long-range approaches to the problem.

I am confident that, through a collaborative effort, we can make inroads in health care costs and welcome the opportunity to work with you to that end. I encourage you to attend and bring one or two other key people from your staff.

The Honorable Arthur J. Clark

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January 12, 1983

The workshop on the 10th will be held at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, from 1:30 P.M. to 5 P.M., with a cash bar afterwards. There will be no charge for the workshop; parking in the Hyatt's garage will be \$2. Please return the enclosed R.S.V.P. form by Friday, January 28, to assist us in planning space arrangements.

I look forward to meeting with you on February 10 to consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/jfs

MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE WORKSHOP
Thursday, February 10, 1983 1:30 P.M. - 5 P.M.
Hyatt Regency Cambridge

() The following persons will attend to represent the City of Waltham.

Name	_____	Phone	_____
	_____	Phone	_____
	_____	Phone	_____

() We will not be able to attend.

Please return the above R.S.V.P. form to:

Miss Paige duPont
Holland, Crowe & Drachman
A Professional Corporation
185 Devonshire Street
Boston, MA 02110

MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE WORKSHOP
Convened by City of Cambridge
Thursday, February 10, 1983 1:30 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Hyatt Regency Cambridge

Program

1:30 - 1:45 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM OF RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS - THE CAMBRIDGE EXPERIENCE.

ROBERT W. HEALY, City Manager.

1:45 - 3:00 STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING THE COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE - LITIGATION, REGULATION AND NEGOTIATION.

ALLAN W. DRACHMAN, is a Boston attorney representing management clients primarily in the public sector and a partner in the firm of Holland, Crowe & Drachman. He is currently Management Co-Chairman of the American Bar Association's Subcommittee on State and Local Government Collective Bargaining. He has lectured and authored articles in the field of labor law.

LAWRENCE J. KIRSCH is the Director of Consumer Health Advocates, Inc., consultants to public and private, non-profit agencies on health insurance and cost-containment issues. He previously served as economist and special assistant to the Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Deputy Commissioner, Boston Health and Hospitals, and full-time faculty, Department of Social Medicine and Health Policy, Harvard Medical School.

3:00 - 4:30 COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS

This panel will provide an examination of collaborative efforts to reduce health care costs in the private sector and will consider what the public sector can learn from them. It will examine the role of regulatory agencies in dealing with rising costs. It will also consider the subjects of municipal pooling to negotiate and purchase health insurance, and union-management cooperation in health care cost containment. The panel will attempt to identify options for immediate and long-range municipal collaboration.

JOHN D. CROSIER is Director of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, which has as one of its primary goals, health care cost containment. The Roundtable was instrumental in achieving passage of Chapter 372, Acts of 1982, and will be active in its implementation phase.

SAMUEL N. HIBBARD has been Director of Compensation and Benefits for the Norton Company for ten years, serves as President of the Central Massachusetts Health Systems Agency, and is Chairman of the Central Massachusetts Business Group on Health.

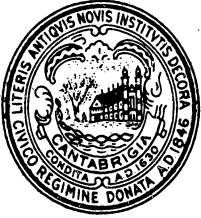
JAMES W. SEGEL is Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, having previously served as State Representative from Brookline from 1973 to 1978.

GERALD SHEA, Health Care Industry Coordinator for the Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO (SEIU), is responsible for all national programs affecting health care employees (approximately 200,000 members) and acts as special assistant to the President of the Union on health care issues.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM DUKAKIS ADMINISTRATION (TO BE ANNOUNCED)

4:30 - 5:00 WRAP-UP

5:00 - 6:30 CASH BAR



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

January 17, 1983

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed please find copy of a communication which I am sending to various officials of the Commonwealth's larger cities and towns, relative to a workshop to discuss the problem of the excessive cost of group health insurance.

I do hope that you will be able to attend this workshop, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge on Thursday, February 10, 1983 from 1:30 P. M. to 5:00 P. M.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item Number Eight 8-31

Re: workshop to be held at the Hyatt Regency
Hotel on February 10, 1983 Re: problem of
excessive costs of group health insurance.

In City Council,

January 17, 1983

1/17/1983

Placed

on

File -