



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 15, 2025

7:30 AM

Microsoft Teams

Draft Meeting Minutes

Directors, Officers, and Trustees: Brian O'Grady – CDPHP (Vice Chair), Jeremiah Benoit, MD – Highmark Western and Northeastern New York, Ashima Butler – Ellenville Regional Hospital, Erica Coletti – Health Alliance Foundation, Julie Demaree – St. Mary's Amsterdam, Bill Duax – Albany Medical Center, Kevin Gallagher, MD – Hudson Headwaters Health Network, Scott Momrow, Jim Sinkoff – Sun River Health, Charles Welge – Albany County Department of Health, Julie Bazell, Joan Hayner, Paul Macielak, Esq., & Wouter Rietsema, MD

Invited Members of the Public: Mackenzie Boushie – Adirondack Medical Center, Patty Fusco – Fusco Personnel, Inc., Lyndsay Macagg – Community Health Center of the North Country, Matt Miles, MD – MVP Health Care, Paul Milton – Ellis Medicine, Mihir Raval, MD – New York Oncology Hematology, James Wellman – Nathan Littauer Hospital

Hixny Staff: Mark McKinney – CEO, Bryan Cudmore – Vice President, Account Management, Taiymoor Naqi – Chief Compliance Officer & Vice President, Privacy & Security, Justin Wise – Director of Finance

Guest(s): David Horrocks, NYEC, Karen Sosler, Esq. – Rivkin Radler, Lisa Tuggle – Adirondack Medical Center

Public Session Commenced: 7:31 AM

I. Welcome & Chairperson Remarks

Mr. O'Grady welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Dr. Miles as the new Member Representative from MVP. He noted that there are two calendar invites for today's meeting – one for the public portion and the other for the private portion. He also welcomed David Horrocks, executive director of NYeC to the meeting.

II. Adopt Minutes from the March 20, 2025 Board Meeting

A motion to approve the March 20, 2025 Board Meeting was made by Jim Sinkoff and was seconded by Jeremiah Benoit, MD. With no further comments, no opposition, and no abstentions, the motion was unanimously approved.

III. Public Session

David Horrocks – SHIN-NY Update

Mr. Horrocks thanked all in attendance for inviting him to present an update at today's meeting.

Mr. Horrocks reviewed the strategic priorities of the SHIN-NY which were recently shared with the QE Board Chairs. They are:

1. SHIN-NY must deliver seamless and consistent statewide services to public health agencies to support statewide programs, and assist in addressing disparities in health related social needs.



2. The SHIN-NY must become more efficient by reducing costs and redundancy by leveraging marketplace developments and national networks.
3. The SHIN-NY must continue to meet local community needs and support organizations in underserved communities.

Mr. Horrocks emphasized that the first two priorities cannot be achieved without also meeting the third.

During the last year, efforts have focused on supporting the 1115 Medicaid waiver, advancing SHIN-NY model reform and ensuring compatibility with national networks. The 1115 waiver has been a significant initiative, with the NYS Medicaid team relying heavily on the SHIN-NY to manage interoperability. The project has gotten off to a strong start. The creation of Social Care Networks (SCNs), a key element of the SHIN-NY model reform, is part of this work. Hixny member Health Alliance Foundation has played a major role in the initiative.

Looking ahead to 2025, the SHIN-NY will focus on improving the quality of statewide services and data, engaging in scenario planning and sustainability efforts, and modernizing the technical architecture. However, challenges related to patient privacy protections within national networks have slowed progress on achieving greater efficiency.

Mr. Horrocks noted that federal funding could significantly impact both New York State and the SHIN-NY. Currently, about 60% of SHIN-NY funding comes from federal Medicaid matching dollars. With the future of this funding uncertain, scenario planning is critical in case of reductions.

He referenced a recent letter from Anne Schettine of the NYS Department of Health, who oversees SHIN-NY operations. The letter called for a transition to a statewide opt-out consent model and the development of standardized data practices to reduce redundancy and improve statewide unification.

Improvements to the technical architecture are also needed. The current model includes six QEs, each maintaining its own data repository, with subsets of data shared via a central data lake. A new conceptual design was introduced, proposing that data be aggregated by each QE but made accessible across the entire SHIN-NY, regardless of the QE of origin. This model also redefines the QEs' roles in relation to DOH funding.

For the upcoming year, SHIN-NY funding from the Department of Health is structured into three categories:

- **Foundation Services:** Contracts supporting QEs in collecting and making data available across the SHIN-NY.
- **Dedicated Contracts:** Targeted funding for QEs, often awarded through competitive procurement, to deliver specific services statewide.
- **Value-Add Services:** Services offered by QEs using SHIN-NY data, provided these uses align with the Statewide Common Participation Agreement.

It is expected that funding for foundation services will continue to decrease, consistent with the trend of the past two years. In contrast, opportunities for dedicated contracts are expanding, and QEs will need to demonstrate strong performance to secure them. In the area of value-add services, Mr. Horrocks encouraged QEs to seek additional sources of funding beyond what is provided by the Department of Health.

Mr. Horrocks expressed appreciation for Hixny's leadership and agility in supporting the 1115 waiver. He noted that Hixny's efforts have been innovative and have enabled the organization to



operate in regions beyond its traditional service area, something no other QE is currently positioned to do. He emphasized that this work is critical to the future of the SHIN-NY and that the Medicaid team has confidence in Hixny's capabilities.

Hixny has also been awarded two recent RFPs—one related to statewide encounter alerts and another in support of the 1115 waiver rollout in additional regions.

Mr. Horrocks acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding future federal funding and the potential need to reform the SHIN-NY model in response. He expressed a desire to work with the highest-performing QEs to improve statewide services.

A question was raised about how QEs should balance the state's push to accelerate initiatives with the uncertainty surrounding future funding. The speaker noted this felt like a mixed message and asked how to prioritize under these conditions. Mr. Horrocks responded that the recently approved state budget provides level funding for the SHIN-NY. As the federal fiscal year begins in October, the state will continue monitoring federal developments. In the meantime, QEs are encouraged to pursue value-add service opportunities to diversify funding sources.

Public Meeting Adjourned: 7:48 am

Respectfully Submitted by:

**Linda Mensching-Quinn,
Human Resource & Board Relations Administrator**

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 17, 2025 at 7:30 AM