



Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange  
SHOP Advisory Committee  
Special Meeting

Remote Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2023  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Grant Ritter (Chair); Pamela Russek; Matthew Katz; Shelly Sweatt; Kevin Galvin; Christopher McKiernan; Paul Lombardo (Subject Matter Expert-SME)

**Other Participants:**

Access Health CT (AHCT) Staff: James Michel; John Carbone; Jerome Chisolm; Susan Rich-Bye; Marcin Olechowski  
Mintz & Hoke: Benjamin Cadwell

**The Meeting of the SHOP Advisory Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m.**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Grant Ritter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call for attendance was taken.

**II. Public Comment**

No public comment was submitted.

**III. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Grant Ritter requested a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 SHOP Advisory Committee Special Meeting Minutes. Motion was made by Matthew Katz and was seconded by Pamela Russek. Roll call vote was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **IV. Connecticut Small Business Summit – Overview and Discussion**

John Carbone, Director of SHOP and Product Development, provided information on the need and ultimate goals of the upcoming Connecticut Small Business Summit. Mr. Carbone provided some context for hosting such an event, including but not limited to actions that were taken by the Small Business Team at Access Health CT (AHCT) during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

During that time, the SHOP team was able to provide valuable information to small businesses on a variety of issues and became even more of a trusted partner to them. Mr. Carbone touched upon a variety of issues and emphasized that the AHCT Small Business Team can also act as a facilitator to provide these businesses with deeper access to the critical resources and insight they need to help them build, sustain and grow their businesses. The aim of the Connecticut Small Business Summit is to build on that premise as well as strengthen and build new relationships between SHOP and small businesses. At similar types of events, small business participants must pay a fee to attend but the AHCT Small Business Summit is free for attendees.

Benjamin Cadwell from Mintz and Hoke provided additional insights on the idea of organizing the Small Business Summit. He asked the Committee for suggestions and recommendations regarding successful planning for the summit.

The current idea is to hold the Summit annually in order to continually help small businesses and provide them with resources as circumstances may change. An overview of the planned Summit was provided, including having speakers, panels, partners and vendors to provide small businesses with direct access to information and insights on the growth and sustainability of their business in today's landscape.

The CT Small Business Summit will take place on June 13 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. Potential topics and panelists will include balance sheet management, brand management, funding opportunities and wellness. A suggestion was made by Matthew Katz to have an AHCT panelist provide information about the significance of having medical health insurance to the participating small businesses. A brief discussion ensued around business wellness and how it would be portrayed at the summit as well as tying the concept of the event with growth and retention strategies.

Mr. Carbone noted that the summit is meant to bring businesses and organizations together for the purpose of learning valuable information as well as learning from each other. Mr. Carbone added that an emphasis will be placed on making sure that topics covered at the summit do not overlap with other events of a similar nature that occurred in the past.

More discussion followed on creating more attractive and appealing topics to be discussed at the summit as well as having an engaging keynote speaker as a draw to potential participants while tying to the mission and vision of AHCT. Mr. Katz suggested possibly including a keynote speaker either from State Government or a larger business leader that is medically related. Many of those businesses are based in Connecticut. A brief discussion followed on having a good balance of panelists,

As Approved by the SHOP Advisory Committee on August 8, 2023  
speakers and businesses at the summit. Suggestions and recommendations were  
provided by the members of the Committee.

## **V. Adjournment**

Chair Grant Ritter requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by  
Pamela Russek and was seconded by Matthew Katz. Roll call vote was ordered.  
**Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.