

WESTERN MASS. MEDICARE FOR ALL

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE

Adopted March 13, 2019

Overview

Western Mass. Medicare for All (WMM4A) is an organization that allows people to participate in different ways and at different levels:

1. **The WMM4A Steering Committee** coordinates the overall organization, manages the budget, media and messaging, training, and regional projects.
2. **Individuals** may subscribe to our listserv to receive information about activities and events related to Medicare for All. They may also attend General Assembly meetings and/or join a local hub.
3. **Local hubs** coordinate grassroots outreach and educational work in their state legislative district(s).
4. **The monthly General Assembly (GA) meetings** are open to the public. The GA is a good place for members of different hubs to connect and for new people to learn about the organization and to decide about joining a hub.
5. **The General Assembly discusses broader policy issues** and makes decisions using a modified consensus model.
6. **Participation in WMM4A** is based on agreement with our mission to advocate for a true Single Payer system and with our Statement of Governance and Guiding Principles. The exception is that any individual may subscribe to our listserve and/or attend the GA without participating in decision-making.

About the Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee (SC) is the **main coordinating body** of WMM4A. The SC manages the budget, media and messaging, WMM4A communications and training, and regional projects.
2. **Ideas and support flow** among the SC, the hubs, and the GA.
3. The SC makes **routine and timely decisions**, including co-sponsorship decisions whenever there is not enough time for the GA to meet first. If decisions require a significant policy discussion, no action will be taken until the GA convenes.
4. The SC includes the **WMM4A Co-conveners** (Jon Weissman and Deborah Levenson) **and a representative from each hub**. A hub rep can be either a hub leader or a member of the hub with whom the hub leadership communicates regularly and trusts.
5. **Composition of the SC will be reassessed** if its membership expands beyond 12 people or if the SC feels the committee is becoming unwieldy before then.
6. The SC will review the current "Co-conveners" positions and develop a proposal for **future leadership transition**.

About the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly (GA) **meets monthly** and is open to the public. It is chaired by the Co-conveners.
2. **Purpose of the GA** is for general discussion, an entry point for new individuals, decisions regarding broad questions about the direction of WMM4A, sharing ideas and best practices among the hubs, and coordinating actions across hubs.
3. **Decision-making is by modified consensus.** We strive for full agreement but will accept a decision with a super-majority of 70%. For example: with 24 participants, we need at least 17 to reach a decision. This combines the desire for unity and broad support with the need to make decisions and move on.
4. **Who is eligible to participate** in the consensus process: All present who have been to at least one previous meeting of the GA and who agree to the Mission, Statement of Governance, and Guiding Principles of WMM4A.
5. **Quorum:** A quorum for decision making will be 15 eligible people, the majority of whom are hub members and who represent at least half the hubs.

About the Hubs

1. **A hub is a local organizing group affiliated with WMM4A.** It is the basic unit of grassroots, neighbor-to-neighbor outreach and education, associated with a specific state legislative district or districts.
 - a. There can be more than one hub in a legislative district and if so, those hubs should coordinate their lobbying activity.
 - b. One hub can also cover more than one legislative district, but in that case, an effort should be made to create more local hubs.
2. A hub can be **hosted by another organization whose mission is compatible** with that of WMM4A. The hub will not require its members to join the host organization.
3. All hub members should **subscribe to the WMM4A listserv** to remain informed about the larger organization and aware of their connection with WMM4A.
4. Hubs each have a **designated leader or leaders** and are expected to have a **representative on the SC and at the GA.** Those reps should communicate back to hub members.
5. The SC has sole authority to **recognize a group as a hub of WMM4A** based on an agreement (to be written) that spells out the relationship.
6. The SC can **withdraw recognition of a hub** if there is a serious conflict with basic principles or ongoing problems with coordination / collaboration.

Amending the Statement of Governance: Any substantive change or addition to this Statement requires the approval of the GA.