

## **CY 2024 REPORT ON THE PHILHEALTH BOARD'S ORIENTATION, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

In 2024, as part of their commitment to good governance and continuous professional development and the mandates of the Universal Health Care Law (UHC Law), Members of the PhilHealth Board actively participated in various capacity-building programs and training sessions. These initiatives aimed to strengthen their governance capabilities, enhance policy-making skills, and ensure alignment with best practices in corporate and health sector governance.

### **I. Corporate Governance Orientation Program (CGOP)**

To reinforce their competencies in good governance, the following PhilHealth Board Member attended the Corporate Governance Orientation Program (CGOP) on June 4-5, 2024:

1. Dr. Thea Arcely R. Gimenez

The CGOP, conducted by the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), is designed to equip participants with a fundamental understanding of corporate governance principles and their practical applications. The program highlights the significance of governance in fostering institutional integrity, aligning with local reforms, and addressing emerging global trends.

Key topics discussed included regulatory updates, corporate governance best practices, risk oversight, audit functions, and the responsibilities of board committees. The session also featured insights into the Professional Directors Program (PDP), which is ICD's flagship training course. The PDP consists of five progressive modules, beginning with the CGOP, followed by Strategy, Policy, Board Oversight, and Accountability. These modules provide board members with the necessary tools to create organizational value and drive transformative changes within their institutions/

Participation in the CGOP ensures that PhilHealth Board Members are well-versed in governance principles, enabling them to make informed decisions, enhance accountability, and contribute to the overall efficiency and integrity of the organization.

### **II. First Unilab Center for Health Policy (UCHP) Executive Symposium: Evidence and Experience on Investing and Paying for Health**

To deepen their understanding of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, the following PhilHealth Board Members attended the First UCHP Executive Symposium on August 02, 2024, in Manila:

1. Dr. Thea Arcely R. Gimenez
2. Dr. Rene Elias C. Lopez
3. Atty. Gioan Fernand A. Legaspi

#### 4. Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla

Accompanying them was PhilHealth Acting Corporate Secretary, Atty. Lora L. Mangasar.

The Unilab Center for Health Policy (UCHP) is a pioneering initiative of the Unilab Foundation dedicated to addressing health inequities and supporting the effective implementation of the UHC Law (Republic Act No. 11223). The symposium provided a platform for discussing evidence-based policy interventions aimed at enhancing healthcare financing and delivery.

A key focus of the event was the development of the Philippine National Health Accounts (PNHA) and its implications for the health sector's financial sustainability. The study, *Philippine Health Sector Performance: An Analysis Using the PNHA from 1991 to 2022*, examined trends in healthcare expenditures, financing sources, and economic challenges. The findings underscored the urgent need for sustainable financing mechanisms to reduce out-of-pocket expenditures and improve equitable access to healthcare services.

Another key aspect of the symposium is the Proposal in relation to Provider Payment Governance, referring to the Provisions of the UHC Law and the response of the UCHP. This includes the mandate to transition to Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) and other Provider Payment Mechanism (PPM) Reforms which states that "PhilHealth shall endeavor to shift to paying providers using performance-driven, close-end, prospective payments based on disease or diagnosis-related groupings and validated costing methodologies and without differentiating facility and professional fees; and develop differential payment schemes that give due consideration to service quality, efficiency, and equity."<sup>1</sup>

By benchmarking global best practices, the symposium provided valuable insights into how governance frameworks can enhance financial sustainability and service delivery in the healthcare sector. The knowledge gained by the Board Members will contribute to PhilHealth's ongoing efforts to implement the UHC Law effectively, ultimately benefiting all Filipinos through improved health coverage and financial risk protection.

### **III. Corporate Governance Orientation Program for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs)**

The Corporate Governance Orientation Program for GOCCs, facilitated by the ICD, provided an in-depth exploration of corporate governance principles, the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) Regulatory Framework, and relevant laws applicable to GOCCs. The program aimed to enhance the strategic leadership capabilities of board members in overseeing GOCC operations effectively.

The following newly appointed PhilHealth Board Members, in compliance with the GCG Memorandum No. 2019-01 and the UHC Law participated in the program:

<sup>1</sup> R.A. 11223, Section 18, b. otherwise known as Universal Health Care Law

- **August 22 and 27, 2024:**
  1. Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla
  2. Atty. Gioan Fernand A. Legaspi
- **October 22-23, 2024:**
  1. Dr. Thea Arcely R. Gimenez
  2. Mr. Robert Francis F. Maronilla

The program covered key topics, including an Introduction to Corporate Governance, the GCG Law, the GCG Regulatory Framework, and relevant procurement laws. These sessions provided board members with a comprehensive understanding of their fiduciary responsibilities and the regulatory landscape governing GOCCs.

By participating in this program, PhilHealth Board Members are better equipped to uphold transparency, accountability, and efficiency in governance. Strengthening corporate governance practices within PhilHealth ensures the organization remains compliant with regulatory standards while fostering public trust and institutional integrity.

#### **IV. Webinar on World Sepsis Day 2024: Together Against Sepsis**

On September 13, 2024, in observance of World Sepsis Day, the following Board Member attended the webinar titled "*World Sepsis Day 2024: Together Against Sepsis*", conducted by the Critical Care Nurses Association of the Philippines Inc. (CCNAPI) on September 23, 2023:

1. Bgen. Marlene R. Padua (Ret.)

Attending this webinar provided valuable insights into the latest developments in sepsis prevention, management, and policy interventions, which are important in strengthening PhilHealth's commitment to improving healthcare services. As a Board Member, the knowledge gained enhances decision-making in crafting policies and programs that support better patient care, ensuring that PhilHealth remains proactive in addressing critical health issues like sepsis, ultimately contributing to improved healthcare outcomes for Filipinos.

#### **V. Orientation and Trainings on Health Care Financing, Health Systems, Costing Health Services, and Health Technology Assessment**

In compliance with the UHC Law and to refresh those who have been serving in the Board for some time, the Board Members underwent the following orientation and training programs on the technical side of social health insurance:

- **October 4, 2024 – Health Care Financing and NHIP Overview**  
Topics covered: NHIP History, UHC Law Provisions, Population and Financial Coverage, Accreditation Process, Benefits Development, and Operations.

#### **Participants:**

1. Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla

2. Atty. Gioan Fernand A. Legaspi
3. Mr. Robert Francis F. Maronilla
4. Dr. Thea Arcely R. Gimenez

- **October 17, 2024 – Enterprise Architecture and Legal Processes**  
Topics covered: Enterprise Architecture, Financial Coverage, and Legal Processes (Internal Legal, FFIED, Prosecution, PROAC, and PARD).

**Participants:**

1. Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla
2. Atty. Gioan Fernand A. Legaspi
3. Mr. Robert Francis F. Maronilla
4. Dr. Thea Arcely R. Gimenez

- **December 5, 2024 – Health Technology Assessment and the HTAC along with their roles in achieving the UHC.**

**Participants:**

1. Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla
2. Atty. Gioan Fernand A. Legaspi
3. Mr. Robert Francis F. Maronilla
4. Dr. Thea Arcely R. Gimenez
5. Dr. Albert Francis E. Domingo
6. Asec. Paul D. Ledesma
7. Dr. Maria Graciela G. Gonzaga

These training sessions, attended by Board Members alongside personnel from the Office of the Corporate Secretary, the Department of Health, and the Department of Finance, provide a crucial platform for aligning governance practices with technical health policy expertise. By equipping Board Members with a deeper understanding of healthcare financing, legal processes, and health technology assessment, these programs enable them to make well-informed decisions that support the sustainability and effectiveness of PhilHealth's operations under the UHC framework.

  
**ATTY. LORA L. MANGASAR**  
Acting Corporate Secretary