Health Care Sharing Ministry Accreditation

CENTRAL TENETS OF HEALTH CARE SHARING

From the HCSAB Standards

Health Care Sharing Ministries exist to serve their members. If they are found to be operating in any way which is duplicitous to their members, they are violating their own existential basis. It is incumbent upon every HCSM to serve their members in a way that holds preeminent the trust which their members have committed to them.

- [ ] Health Care Sharing Ministries shall be organized and operated as a nonprofit legal entity. The ministry shall not be controlled, directly or indirectly, in part or in whole by a for profit organization.

- [ ] A Health Care Sharing Ministry facilitates the voluntary payment of certain medical expenses incurred by its members through payments by other members, all in accordance with methods and criteria adopted by the organization and agreed to by its members.

- [ ] Health Care Sharing is not insurance, and the ministries facilitating sharing must make that clear continually, such that every member will have multiple opportunities to be cognizant of the differences between insurance and health care sharing. Health Care Sharing provides no assumption of risk or promise to pay among the members or by the organization. HCSMs avoid the use of terms and phrases specific to health insurance (for example “coverage” “deductible” “premium”, etc.) that, in context, could create a risk that a member or prospective member could reasonably conclude that the ministry program promises to pay medical expenses or otherwise constitutes an insurance plan.

- [ ] It is vital that the HCSM declare these differences frequently and with clarity to ensure that each member and potential member understands that a health care sharing ministry operates on a different basis than health insurance. The HCSM will obtain on its membership application the written acknowledgment of the member that health care sharing is not insurance.

- [ ] Criteria for membership in the HCSM must be publicly available, clear, and easily accessible. HCSMs terminate membership only for a violation of their own guidelines and never because of a member’s medical condition or medical costs incurred.

- [ ] Criteria for which medical needs are eligible for sharing must be publicly available and up to date on the HCSM website.

- [ ] The HCSM shall have a governing board where a minimum of a 2/3 majority consisting of at least 5 board members is independent and unrelated to anyone with operational control or a financial interest in the ministry.

- [ ] The HCSM must audit its financial statements annually in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This audit must be performed by a certified public accountant. The most recent audit must be made available, either publicly on the HCSM website, or when requested by any person.