

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Minutes of the Standing Monthly Meeting May 27, 2020

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, the meeting was held via telephone conference call. A speakerphone was available in Room 139 in the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson, Mississippi, for the general public to listen to the meeting. The presiding officer was Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman of the Board. A quorum was present via telephone.

Voting Members Present

Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman
Mr. Mike Chaney
Mr. Mark Formby
Mr. Larry Fortenberry
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Mr. Ray Higgins
Dr. Andrea Mayfield
Dr. Alfred Rankins

Non-Voting Members Present

The Honorable J. Walter Michel
- Chairman, Senate Insurance Committee

Voting Members Absent

Mr. Christopher Burkhalter, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Carey Wright *(Represented by Dr. Felicia Gavin)*

Non-Voting Members Absent

The Honorable Gary Chism
- Chairman, House Insurance Committee
The Honorable W. Briggs Hopson
- Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable John Read
- Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

Department of Finance and Administration Staff Present:

Mr. Richard Self
Ms. Cindy Bradshaw
Mr. John Anderson
Ms. Terri Ashley
Ms. Latasha Holmes
Ms. Angela Inman
Ms. Amanda Murphy
Mr. Chris Shaman
Ms. Christina Young

Attorney General's Office Staff

Ms. Liz Bolin, Esquire



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Call to Order

The meeting was chaired and called to order by Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman of the Board. Chairman Welch welcomed Board members on the call, and reminded them that the March and April standing meetings had been cancelled due to COVID-19 epidemic.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Standing Board Meeting of February 26, 2020

Chairman Welch announced that minutes of the Board's standing monthly meeting of February 26, 2020, had been provided to all Board members for their review in advance of today's meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly Hardwick for the Board to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Andrea Mayfield seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, Higgins, Mayfield, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 2: 2019 Third Party Medical Claims Administrator Audit

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Michelle Suckow, Claim Technologies, Inc. (CTI) Vice President to present the results of CTI's recently completed audit of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi's (BCBSMS) calendar year 2019 performance as the third party medical claims administrator for the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan. A copy of CTI's *Claims and Performance Review Report*, their report summary, and BCBSMS' response was distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. Ms. Suckow explained the audit process and the key results, and noted that BCBSMS had met or exceeded all contractual performance standards. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

Agenda Item 3: 2019 Prescription Benefit Management Audit

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Kari Tvedt, Senior Consultant with PillarRx Consulting, LLC. (Pillar), to present the results of Pillar's recently completed audit of Prime Therapeutics, LLC's (Prime) calendar year 2019 performance as the pharmacy benefit manager for the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan. A copy of Pillar's report entitled "*Prescription Benefit Management Audit*", as well as their summary document, was distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. Ms. Tvedt discussed the audit process and the key results, and noted that Prime had met or exceeded all contractual performance standards. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

Agenda Item 4: Calendar Year 2019 Life and Health Insurance Audit

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. [Name Redacted], Board, who discussed his calendar year 2019 Life and Health Insurance Audit.



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overview of the financial status of the Plan as of the end of 2019, as well as projections of the Plan's financial status through Calendar Year 2022, including assumed premium rate adjustments necessary to meet the Plan's stated funding objective. Although not a component of his report due to the timing of the event, Mr. Townsend also briefly discussed the potential impact of COVID-19 to the Plan, advising that premium projections would likely change when he completes his fiscal year 2020 report and by the time the Board votes on calendar year 2021 premiums in August. Copies of Mr. Townsend's report entitled "*ACTUARIAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2019*," were provided to Board members for their review prior to the meeting. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

Agenda Item 5: Pharmacy Benefit Manager Services Request for Proposals Update

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw, Deputy Director with the Office of Insurance, who provided an update to the completion of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Services request for proposals (RFP). Ms. Bradshaw reported that due to unforeseen delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to respond to the RFP had been extended in order to allow interested vendors sufficient time to prepare their proposals under the resulting shelter at home conditions. She explained that the impact of providing vendors additional time for proposal submission has resulted in a delay in the evaluation and ultimate award of the new PBM contract, as well as the time available for implementation and potential transition to a new vendor. Ms. Bradshaw advised that the process was still on track to meet the PBM's January 1, 2021 service effective date, but that the timeline for this RFP, as well as several other RFPs scheduled for release this year, have been adjusted to ensure that sufficient resources and lead time for contract awards and implementation are available. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

Agenda Item 6: Health Management Services Request for Proposals Update

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw who provided an update to the completion of the Health Management Services request for proposals (RFP). Ms. Bradshaw reported that due to unforeseen delays incident to the COVID-19 pandemic, release of the RFP has been delayed. She stated that completion of the procurement and contracting process cannot be accomplished as previously scheduled in a manner that will allow sufficient time for potential implementation and transition to a new vendor by the January 1, 2021 effective date. Ms. Bradshaw advised that staff recommends that the Board consider contracting with ActiveHealth Management (AHM), the Board's current health management services vendor, for a six-month period, thereby extending AHM's service period through June 30, 2021. She explained that if the six-month agreement is approved, the effective date for the new contract to be procured by the RFP could be moved to July 1, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Mike Chaney to approve a six-month agreement with ActiveHealth Management to continue to provide health management services. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Hardwick, Higgins, Mayfield, and



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Agenda Item 7: Third Party Medical Claims Administration Services Request for Proposals

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Richard Self, State Insurance Administrator with the Office of Insurance, who reminded the Board that the contract with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBSMS) for third party medical claims administration services will expire on December 31, 2021. Mr. Self explained that under this contract, BCBSMS provides comprehensive medical claims administration and provider network services, to include maintaining a system for processing and adjudicating medical claims from hospitals, physicians, diagnostic laboratories and imaging services, and other providers according to Plan benefits and medical policy, managing enrollment and eligibility of Plan participants, maintaining accumulators for deductibles, coinsurance, and annual out-of-pocket limits including amounts paid for pharmacy benefits administered by the Plan's pharmacy benefit manager, etc. Mr. Self advised that the solicitation and selection of a vendor to provide these services is a lengthy and comprehensive process, and includes a legal requirement that six months be allowed for implementation. He reported that in order to ensure that the selected contractor will be ready to provide services by January 1, 2022, staff will need to initiate the procurement process in the upcoming months. A motion was made by Mr. Hardwick to issue a Request for Proposals for Third Party Claims Administration Services, and if approved, establish a subcommittee. Mr. Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, Higgins, Mayfield, and Rankins voting affirmatively. Chairman Welch appointed Mr. Chris Burkhalter, Mr. Mike Chaney, Mr. Ray Higgins, and Dr. Alfred Rankins to the Third Party Claims Administration Services RFP subcommittee.

Agenda Item 8: Potential Benefit Changes for Calendar Year 2021

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw, who outlined the process and schedule for consideration of proposed Plan benefit changes for 2021, and briefly discussed the list of potential changes. A copy of this list had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Ms. Bradshaw advised that the Board will need to indicate which of the potential benefit changes listed they would like for the staff to analyze, and explained that other proposed changes could be added to the list if the Board so desired. The following potential benefit changes were discussed:

1. Consider changes to prescription drug benefits
 - a. Coverage tiers, copayments, deductibles
 - b. Mail order drugs
 - c. Brand drugs with coupons
 - d. Formulary and/or drug class restrictions
 - e. Specialty medications
2. Consider changes to medical benefits
 - a. Deductibles, coinsurance
 - b. Out-of-pocket maximum



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3. Consider changes to wellness/preventive benefits
 - a. ACA requirements
 - b. USPSTF recommendations
 - c. Other
4. Consider adding a wellness incentive program
5. Remove Prior Authorization Requirement for Certain Services

Mr. Mark Formby requested that the Board consider adding benefits for the treatment of dental conditions due to birth defects to the list for staff to review. A motion was made by Mr. Formby to authorize the staff to begin a focused evaluation and analysis of all items with the flexibility to evaluate additional items should the interest and need arise. Mr. Mike Chaney seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, Higgins, Mayfield, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 9: Financial Statements

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Latasha Holmes, Director of Budget and Accounting with the Office of Insurance, who briefly reviewed the financial statements for the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for the month of April 2020. Copies of the financial statements for February, March and April were provided to Board members for their review prior to the meeting. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

Agenda Item 10: General Schedule

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw, who briefly reviewed the schedule of major activities and actions to be taken by the Board for the next several months. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

Agenda Item 11: Old Business

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Self who requested that the Board vote to confirm the temporary benefit enhancements in effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included the federally-mandated no cost-sharing for COVID-19 diagnostic testing until the public health emergency ends, as well as no cost-sharing for telemedicine visits rendered by network providers through June 30, 2020, both of which subject to medical necessity. A motion was made by Mr. Chaney to confirm the temporary benefit enhancements for COVID-19 testing and telemedicine. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, Higgins, Mayfield, and Rankins voting affirmatively.



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Agenda Item 12: New Business

There was no new business for the Board to consider.

Adjournment

Chairman Welch announced that the next standing meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, and that details regarding meeting format and access would be forthcoming.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Liz Welch", is written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Liz Welch
Chairman
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board



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