

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Standing Monthly Meeting October 28, 2020

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, October 28, 2020, in Room 138 in the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 9:01 a.m. A speakerphone was available in Room 1302 in the Woolfolk Building for the general public to listen to the meeting. The presiding officer was Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman of the Board. A quorum was present.

Voting Members Present

Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman
Mr. Christopher Burkhalter, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Mike Chaney
Mr. Mark Formby
Mr. Larry Fortenberry *(Via telephone)*
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Mr. Ray Higgins
Dr. Andrea Mayfield *(Via telephone)*
Dr. Alfred Rankins *(Via telephone)*
Dr. Carey Wright *(Represented by Dr. Felicia Gavin via telephone)*

Non-Voting Members Present

The Honorable John Read – Chairman,
House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Walter Michel – Chairman,
Senate Insurance Committee

Voting Members Absent

None

Non-Voting Members Absent

The Honorable Briggs Hopson – Chairman,
Senate Appropriations Committee
Vacant – Chairman
House Insurance Committee

Department of Finance and Administration Staff Present:

Mr. Richard Self
Ms. Cindy Bradshaw
Ms. Latasha Holmes *(Via telephone)*
Ms. Amanda Murphy
Mr. John Anderson *(Via telephone)*
Ms. Angela Inman *(Via telephone)*
Mr. Chris Shaman *(Via telephone)*
Ms. Christina Young *(Via telephone)*

Attorney General's Office Staff Present:

Ms. Liz Bolin, Esquire

Call to Order

The meeting was chaired and called to order by Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman of the Board.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the September 23, 2020 Standing Monthly Board Meeting

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's September 23, 2020 standing monthly meeting 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. Mr. Mark Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 9 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Gavin (designee for member Wright), Hardwick, Higgins, Mayfield, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 2: HIPAA Exemption Election

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Richard Self, State Insurance Administrator with the Office of Insurance, who advised that staff recommends that the Board continue to elect exemption of the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan from certain federal regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Mr. Self explained that although the Board has consistently elected to generally comply with the intent of the HIPAA requirements voluntarily, it has nonetheless voted annually to exempt the Plan from regulation under these provisions for the past twenty-two years. He advised that should the Board elect to continue this exemption for 2021, notification of this election would be filed with the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, and likewise provided to participants as a part of the *Plan Document*. Mr. Formby moved to approve the exemption election. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Burkhalter. The motion passed by a 9 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Mayfield, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 3: 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 September 2020. Copies of the financial statements 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 4: General Schedule

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw, Deputy Director with the Office of Insurance, who reviewed the schedule of major activities and actions to be taken by the Board for the next several months. Ms. Bradshaw advised that the annual Strategic Planning Retreat is tentatively scheduled to take place in the second quarter of 2021.

Agenda Item 5: Old Business

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Bradshaw, who provided an update of COVID related claims with the number of hospitalizations and deaths.

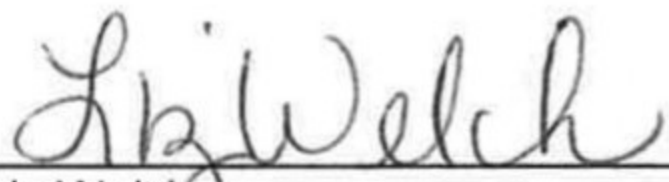
Agenda Item 6: New Business

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Self who announced his upcoming December 31, 2020 retirement as State Insurance Administrator. Board members joined Chairman Welch in expressing their thanks to Mr. Self for his forty-two years of service to the State of Mississippi, including the past twenty-six years working with the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan.

Chairman Welch announced that Ms. Cindy Bradshaw has accepted an appointment to become the new State Insurance Administrator. Ms. Bradshaw has over twenty-three years of experience in the health insurance industry, serving the past eight years as the Plan's Deputy State Insurance Administrator. Chairman Welch and Board members congratulated Ms. Bradshaw, whose appointment will begin effective January 1, 2021.

Adjournment

Chairman Welch advised that in order to avoid conflicts with the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays, the next meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., November 18, 2020, in Room 138, of the Woolfolk Building. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.



Liz Welch
Chairman
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board