

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Standing Monthly Meeting October 27, 2021

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the 9th Floor Conference Room of the Office of Insurance located in the Woolfolk Building in Jackson, Mississippi. A dial-in number was available upon request for the 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 *(Via telephone)*
Mr. Larry Fortenberry *(Via telephone)*
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Mr. Ray Higgins
Mr. Kell Smith
Dr. Carey Wright *(Represented by Dr. Felicia Gavin via TEAMS)*

Non-Voting Members Present

The Honorable Walter Michel – Chairman,
Senate Insurance Committee
The Honorable Henry Zuber – Chairman,
House Insurance Committee

Voting Members Absent

Mr. Mark Formby
Dr. Alfred Rankins

Non-Voting Members Absent

The Honorable Briggs Hopson – Chairman,
Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable John Read – Chairman,
House Appropriations Committee

Department of Finance and Administration Staff Present:

Ms. Cindy Bradshaw
Ms. Angela Inman *(Via Teams)*
Mr. Chris Shaman *(Via Teams)*
Ms. Amanda Murphy
Ms. Christy Easterling *(Via Teams)*
Ms. Dinah Wilson *(Via Teams)*
Ms. Christina Young *(Via Phone)*

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 22, 2021 Standing Monthly Board Meeting

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's September 22, 2021 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. Ray Higgins seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Fortenberry, Gavin (designee for member Wright), Hardwick, Higgins, and Smith voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 2: HIPAA Exemption Election

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw, 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). Ms. Bradshaw 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-three years. She advised that should the Board elect to continue this exemption for 2022, 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. Hardwick moved to approve the exemption election. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Burkhalter. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Fortenberry, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, and Smith voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 3: Financial Statements

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Angela Inman, Deputy Director 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 2021. 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 Mr. Chris Shaman, 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.

Agenda Item 5: Old Business


Ms. Cindy Bradshaw advised that the negotiations with UMMC to provide telehealth services were ongoing.

Agenda Item 6: New Business

There was no new business for the Board to consider.

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 17, 2021. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.



Liz Welch
Chairman
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board