

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Standing Monthly Meeting October 26, 2022

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 9:02 a.m. in Room 117 of the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson, Mississippi. The meeting was held in person with some board members and vendors joining the meeting virtually using Microsoft Teams®. 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
Dr. Kim Benton *(Represented by Dr. Felicia Gavin)*
Mr. Mike Chaney
Mr. Mark Formby
Mr. Larry Fortenberry *(Via telephone)*
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Mr. Ray Higgins
Dr. Alfred Rankins *(Via Teams)*
Mr. Kell Smith *(Represented by Jason Carter)*

Non-Voting Members Present

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

Voting Members Absent

Non-Voting Members Absent

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

Department of Finance and Administration Staff Present:

Ms. Cindy Bradshaw
Mr. Chris Shaman
Ms. Amanda Murphy
Ms. Carlotta Edwards *(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 28, 2022 Standing Monthly Board Meeting

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's September 28, 2022 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, Carter (designee for member Smith), Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Gavin (designee for member Benton), Hardwick, Higgins, and Rankins 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 an 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-four years. She advised that should the Board elect to continue this exemption for 2023, 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 9 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Carter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 3: Financial Statements

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Chris Shaman, 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 2022. 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. 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

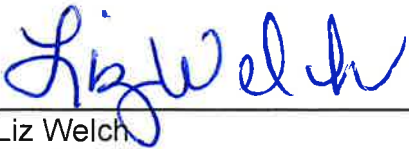
Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Bradshaw who reminded the Board they had voted at the September Board meeting to increase the Select Coverage deductible by \$300 to be offset by the completion of the Wellness Incentive. Ms. Bradshaw stated staff had received a request to allow spouses of employees to be included in that Wellness Incentive. A motion was made by Mr. Hardwick to extend Wellness Incentive Program to include spouses of employees. Mr. Mike Chaney seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 9 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Carter, Chaney, Formby, Fortenberry, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

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 16, 2021. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.



Liz Welch
Chairman
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board