

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Standing Monthly Meeting March 22, 2023

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, March 22, 2023, in Room 117, in the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 9:00 a.m. 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 *(Represented by Ms. Jennifer Salvo)*
Mr. Mark Formby
Mr. Larry Fortenberry
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Mr. Ray Higgins
Dr. Alfred Rankins *(Represented by Ms. Susan Erickson)*
Mr. Kell Smith
Dr. Robert Taylor *(represented by Ms. Sheila Buie)*

Non-Voting Members Present

Voting Members Absent

Non-Voting Members Absent

The Honorable John Read – Chairman,
House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Walter Michel – Chairman,
Senate Insurance Committee
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. Liz Bolin, Esquire
Ms. Karen McKlemurry
Ms. Carlotta Edwards *(Via Teams)*
Ms. Alicia Coleman *(Via Teams)*
Ms. Christina Young *(Via Teams)*
Ms. Stacie Sheriff *(Via Teams)*
Ms. Krista Robinson *(Via Teams)*

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 February 22, 2023 Standing Monthly Board Meeting

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's February 22, 2023 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 for February as presented. Mr. Mark Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 8 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney (represented by designee Jennifer Salvo), Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins (represented by designee Susan Erickson), and Smith voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 2: Actuarial Report Calendar Year 2022

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Wm. Lynn Townsend, FSA, MAAA, consulting actuary for the Board, who discussed his Calendar Year 2022 actuarial analysis of the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan. Mr. Townsend's presentation included an overview of the financial status of the Plan as of the end of 2022, as well as projections of the Plan's financial status through Calendar Year 2025, including assumed premium rate adjustments necessary to meet the Plan's stated funding objective. Copies of Mr. Townsend's report entitled "*ACTUARIAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2022*," 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 3: Wellness Incentive Program

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cindy Bradshaw, State Insurance Administrator, who discussed the impact of the Wellness Incentive Program on deductibles. Due to the complexity of program design regulations and requirements, it was recommended that the Program be suspended to allow time for further analysis. Mr. Larry Fortenberry made a motion to suspend the program, and Mr. Chris Burkhalter seconded. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Formby, Fortenberry, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins (represented by designee Susan Erickson), and Smith voting affirmatively. Ms. Salvo (designee of Mr. Chaney) abstained.

Agenda Item 4: Financial Statements

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Chris Shaman, Deputy Director, Office of Insurance, who briefly reviewed the financial statements for the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for the month of February 2023. Copies of the financial statements were provided to the Board members for review prior to the meeting. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

Agenda Item 5: Old Business

There was no old business for the Board to consider.

Agenda Item 6: New Business

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Bradshaw, who brought to the Board's attention that a bill was passed to have the State Health Plan to provide health insurance coverage for state contract workers. The bill goes into effect July 1, 2023, and we will be working to send out communications to the agencies to have them offer Base Plan coverage to all their contract workers who are working at least 130 hours per month.

Recent federal legislation eliminated the ability of self-insured non-federal governmental plans to opt out of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). Although the Plan has historically opted out, we have generally tried to comply with the intent of the Act. Based on guidance from our consultants we are waiting for the federal government to provide additional direction on ensuring compliance by January 1, 2024.

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, April 26, 2023.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liz Welch", is written over a horizontal line.

Liz Welch
Chairman

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