

# State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

## Standing Monthly Meeting October 25, 2023

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 9:03 a.m. Due to significant water damage caused by a broken valve in the Woolfolk Building earlier this month, the meeting was held virtually via Teams. The presiding officer was Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman of the Board. A quorum was present.

### Voting Members Present

Ms. Liz Welch, Chairman  
Mr. Mike Chaney  
Mr. Mark Formby  
Dr. Felicia Gavin  
Mr. Kelly Hardwick  
Mr. Ray Higgins  
Dr. Alfred Rankins  
Mr. Kell Smith

### Non-Voting Members Present

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

### Voting Members Absent

Mr. Christopher Burkhalter, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Larry Fortenberry

### 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:**

Mr. Bert Emrick  
Ms. Karen McKlemurry  
Ms. Alicia Coleman  
Ms. Carlotta Edwards

## **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 27, 2023 Standing Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's September 27, 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. Mike Chaney for the Board to approve the minutes for September as presented. Mr. Mark Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Chaney, Formby, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, and Smith voting affirmatively.

## **Agenda Item 2: HIPAA Exemption Election**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, State Insurance Administrator, 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). Mr. Emrick 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-five years. He advised that should the Board elect to continue this exemption for 2024, 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. Formby. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Chaney, Formby, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, and Smith voting affirmatively.

## **Agenda Item 3: Financial Statements**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, who briefly reviewed the financial statements for the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for the month of September 2023. Copies of the financial statements from September 2023 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 4: General Schedule**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, who reviewed the schedule of major activities and actions to be taken by the Board for the next several months.

**Agenda Item 5: 2024 Plan Document**

Chairman Welch again recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, who presented the draft *2024 Plan Document*. Mr. Emrick reminded Board members that the *Plan Document* provides a comprehensive description of the operation and administration of the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan, and includes a listing of covered, as well as excluded, services and benefits. Mr. Emrick discussed in detail a summary of the proposed changes to the *Plan Document*, including but not limited to the recently approved 2024 benefit changes. A motion was made by Mr. Chaney to approve the *2024 Plan Document* as presented. Mr. Hardwick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Chaney, Formby, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, and Smith voting affirmatively.

**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, November 15, 2023, in Room 138.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.



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Liz Welch  
Chairman

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