

## **State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board**

### **Standing Monthly Meeting May 22, 2024**

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 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 *(via Teams)*  
Dr. Felicia Gavin *(via Teams)*  
Mr. Kelly Hardwick  
Dr. Alfred Rankins

#### **Non-Voting Members Present**

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

#### **Voting Members Absent**

Mr. Mark Formby  
Mr. Ray Higgins  
Mr. Kell Smith

#### **Non-Voting Members Absent**

The Honorable Briggs Hopson – Chairman,  
Senate Appropriations Committee

#### **Department of Finance and Administration Staff Present:**

Mr. Bert Emrick  
Ms. Liz Bolin, Esquire  
Ms. Karen McKlemurry  
Ms. Carlotta Edwards *(Via Teams)*  
Ms. Alicia Coleman *(Via Teams)*  
Ms. Makleisha Logan-Hite *(via Teams)*  
Ms. Lori Paes *(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 April 24, 2024, Standing Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's April 24, 2024, 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 April as presented. Mr. Mike Chaney seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Gavin, Hardwick, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

### **Agenda Item 2: 2023 Third Party Medical Claims Administrator Audit – Ms. Joni Amato, Account Executive - Claim Technologies, Inc. (CTI)**

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Joni Amato, CTI Account Executive, to present the results of CTI's recently completed audit of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi's (BCBSMS) calendar year 2023 performance as the third-party medical claims administrator for the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan. A copy of CTI's *Claims and Performance Review Report*, and BCBSMS' response were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

### **Agenda Item 3: Coverage of Wegovy (Semaglutide) for New Cardiovascular Indications – Mr. Bert Emrick, State Insurance Administrator, Office of Insurance**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, State Insurance Administrator, Office of Insurance, who requested the Board's decision on whether to add Wegovy to the list of approved drugs. After discussion, Mr. Kelly Hardwick made the motion for the Board to approve adding Wegovy to the list of covered drugs, and Mr. Mike Chaney seconded. The motion passed by a 5 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Gavin, Hardwick, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

### **Agenda Item 4: 2024 Legislative Session – Mr. Bert Emrick, State Insurance Administrator, Office of Insurance**

Chairman Welch again recognized Mr. Emrick, who discussed the legislation that has been identified as affecting the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan. No action was required or taken by the Board on this item.

**Agenda Item 5: Financial Statements**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Emrick, who briefly reviewed the financial statements for the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for the month of May 2024. 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 6: General Schedule**

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

**Agenda Item 7: Old Business**

There was no old business for the Board to consider.

**Agenda Item 8: New Business**

In New Business, Chairman Welch announced that there was a need to enter into a closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly Hardwick that the meeting be closed for the Board to consider going into executive session. Dr. Al Rankins seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Gavin, Hardwick, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

The public was excused from the room while the Board went into closed session. Board members, staff of the Department of Finance and Administration, and staff from the Attorney General's Office remained in the room. A motion was made by Mr. Hardwick that the Board go into executive session in accordance with the Mississippi Open Meetings Act. Dr. Rankins seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Gavin, Hardwick, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

Chairman Welch reopened the meeting and announced publicly that the Board had voted to enter into executive session so that the Attorney General's Office could update Board members on a potential inquiry. The public was excused from the room and the Board entered into executive session at approximately 9:35 a.m. Board members, staff of the Department of Finance and Administration, as well as staff and contract counsel from the Attorney General's Office, remained in the room. No action was taken by the Board in executive session.


A motion to adjourn the executive session and reopen the meeting was made by Mr. Hardwick. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chaney and passed by a 5 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Gavin, Hardwick, and Rankins voting affirmatively.

The executive session ended at approximately 9:40 a.m. Chairman Welch announced that no action was taken during executive session.

### **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, June 26, 2024.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

  
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Liz Welch  
Chairman  
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board