

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

### **Standing Monthly Meeting September 25, 2024**

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in Room 117 of the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 9:03 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 Mr. Bob Williams*)  
Mr. Mark Formby  
Dr. Felicia Gavin  
Mr. Kelly Hardwick  
Mr. Ray Higgins  
Dr. Alfred Rankins (*via Teams*)  
Mr. Kell Smith

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

The Honorable Walter Michel – Chairman,  
Senate Insurance Committee

#### **Voting Members Absent**

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

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

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

Mr. Bert Emrick  
Ms. Liz Bolin, Esquire  
Ms. Karen McKlemurry  
Ms. Carlotta Edwards (*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 August 28, 2024 Standing Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's August 28, 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 August as presented. Mr. Mark Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by an 8 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Formby, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, Smith and Williams (designee for member Chaney) voting affirmatively.

**Agenda Item 2: Fiscal Year 2024 Actuarial Report**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Wm. Lynn Townsend, FSA, MAAA, Consulting Actuary for the Board, who presented the key points from the Fiscal Year 2023 Actuarial Report. Copies of the *FY23 Actuarial Report Highlights* and *Actuarial Report Fiscal Year 2023* were provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

Mr. Kelly Hardwick made a motion to approve the actual health insurance premium rate change of 5% to be effective January 1, 2025, and approve the premium rate change assumption of 5% for January 1, 2026 to provide to Legislative Budgeting Office for fiscal year 2026 for budgeting purposes only. Mr. Ray Higgins seconded the motion, which passed by an 8 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Formby, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, Smith and Williams (designee for member Chaney) voting affirmatively.

**Agenda Item 3: Maternity Management Emergency Contract with Acentra Health**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, state Insurance Administrator, who informed the Board that during the calendar year of 2024, CVS Health purchased several ancillary companies to add to their portfolio, included in this purchase was data warehousing, health and wellness. This purchase affects the Mississippi State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan because this purchase included our health and wellness vendor, ActiveHealth. The Office of Insurance was notified in early July 2024, that due to this purchase, it was decided that ActiveHealth would no longer be offering the optional service of Maternity Management. The optional service is set to expire October 7, 2024. The Office of Insurance has been working to find a suitable and cost-effective replacement. Our current utilization and case management vendor, Acentra Health f/k/a Kepro has submitted a proposal to offer our participants Maternity Management services. Mr. Mark Formby made a motion to approve the Maternity Management Emergency Contract with Acentra Health. Mr. Ray Higgins seconded the motion, which was passed by an 8 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Formby, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, Smith and Williams (designee for member Chaney) voting affirmatively.

**Agenda Item 4: Pharmacy Benefit Manager Services Request for Proposal**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, who stated that the Board's contract with CVS Health for Pharmacy Benefit Manager services (PBM) will expire on December 31, 2025. This contract provides for management and facilitation of the Plan's prescription drug benefits, including network pharmaceutical pricing through financial arrangements with pharmacies, as well as rebate management. In order to ensure that the selected contractor will be ready to provide services by January 1, 2026, staff will need to initiate the procurement process in the upcoming months. Mr. Chris Burkhalter made a motion to issue Request for Proposals for Pharmacy Benefit Manager Services and to allow the Chair to select a subcommittee. Mr. Ray Higgins seconded the motion, which was passed by an 8 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Formby, Gavin, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, Smith and Williams (designee for member Chaney) voting affirmatively.

**Agenda Item 5: 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 August 2024. Copies of the financial statements from August 2024 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. Bert Emrick, who reviewed the schedule of major activities and actions to be taken by the Board for the next several months.

**Agenda Item 7: Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**Agenda Item 8: New Business**

There was no New Business.

### **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, October 23, 2024, in Room 117.

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

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

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Liz Welch

Chairman

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