

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Standing Monthly Meeting January 22, 2025

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, January 22, 2025, in Room 117 of 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 *(via Teams)*
Mr. Mike Chaney
Dr. Lance Evans *(represented by Ms. Sheila Buie)*
Mr. Jimmy Gathings
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Mr. Ray Higgins
Mr. Kell Smith *(represented by Mr. Jason Carter)*

Non-Voting Members Present

Voting Members Absent

Mr. Mark Formby
Dr. Alfred Rankins

Non-Voting Members Absent

The Honorable Briggs Hopson - Chairman,
Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Walter Michel – Chairman,
Senate Insurance 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
Mr. Patrick Black
Ms. Karen McKlemurry
Ms. Alicia Coleman *(via Teams)*
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 November 20, 2024 Standing Monthly Board Meeting

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's November 20, 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 November as presented. Mr. Mike Chaney seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Buie (designee for member Evans), Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, and Carter (designee for member Smith) voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 2: Election of Board Vice Chairman

Chairman Welch advised that election of a Vice Chairman was in order. A motion was made by Mr. Chaney to elect Mr. Christopher Burkhalter as Vice Chairman to the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board, and Mr. Hardwick seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Buie (designee for member Evans), Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, and Carter (designee for member Smith) voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 3: Standing Committee Assignments

Chairman Welch discussed the standing committee members who have been assigned to work with on an as-needed basis.

Agenda Item 4: 2023 Pharmacy Benefit Manager Audit

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Julie Weissmann, PillarRx Consulting, LLC, to present the results of Pillar's recently completed audit of CVS Caremark's calendar year 2023 performance as the pharmacy benefit manager for the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan (Plan). The review was conducted to determine whether the claims were adjudicated accurately and in accordance with the contractual performance standards, appropriate Plan benefits, and industry standards. The review included but was not limited to an electronic re-pricing of 100% of the prescription drug claims processed, a rebate validation and management review, a verification of discount and dispensing fee guarantees, and an operations review. Mr. Hardwick made a motion to accept the report and Mr. Chaney seconded. The motion passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Buie (designee for member Evans), Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, and Carter (designee for member Smith) voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 5: Pharmacy Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, who discussed the Pharmacy Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract. This contract provides an audit of all the claims processed by the Plan's pharmacy benefit manager to determine if the pharmacy claims were adjudicated according to the appropriate Plan benefits. The Pharmacy Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract with PillarRx Consulting, LLC (PillarRx) expired on December 31, 2024, with no additional time to extend.

At the June 26, 2024, meeting the Board authorized staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for pharmacy claims and performance audit services. The RFP was released in July 2024, with proposals received in August. However, it was identified that Audit Services under the Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB) Section 12.1.3 are exempt from procurement process. The RFP was canceled in November 2024.

It is the recommendation of the Office of Insurance to award the Pharmacy Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract to the incumbent, PillarRx Consulting, LLC (PillarRx). Mr. Ray Higgins made a motion to award the contract to PillarRx Consulting, LLC. Mr. Kelly Hardwick seconded the motion, which passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Buie (designee for member Evans), Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, and Carter (designee for member Smith) voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 6: Medical Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Emrick, who discussed the Medical Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract, which provides an audit of all the claims processed by the Plan's medical claims third party administrator to determine if the medical claims were adjudicated according to the appropriate Plan benefits. The Medical Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract with Claim Technologies Incorporated (CTI) expired on December 31, 2024, with no additional time to extend.

At the June 26, 2024, meeting the Board authorized staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for medical claims and performance audit services. The RFP was released in July 2024, with proposals received in August. However, it was identified that Audit Services under the Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB) Section 12.1.3 are exempt from procurement process. The RFP was canceled in November 2024.

It is the recommendation of the Office of Insurance to award the Medical Claims and Performance Audit Services Contract to the incumbent, Claim Technologies Incorporated (CTI). Mr. Chaney made a motion to award the contract to Claim Technologies Incorporated. Mr. Hardwick seconded the motion, which passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Buie (designee for member Evans), Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, and Carter (designee for member Smith) voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 7: Invitations for Bid – Decision Support Services

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Emrick, who stated that the Board's contract with HDMS for decision support services will expire on February 28, 2024. This contract provides for consulting, analytical and reporting services through the collection, processing, maintenance and client access of eligibility, claims, biometric, provider, and disease management data from the Plan's third-party administrator, pharmacy benefit manager, medical management vendor, and other Plan vendors as needed. In order to ensure that the selected contractor will be ready to provide services, staff will need to begin the procurement process in the upcoming month. Mr. Hardwick made a motion to approve issuing an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for Decision Support Services. Mr. Mike Chaney seconded the motion, which passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Buie (designee for member Evans), Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, and Carter (designee for member Smith) voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 8: Exigent Circumstance Extension – Decision Support Services

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Patrick Black, who stated that HDMS is the current vendor for Decision Support Services, and it is set to expire on February 28, 2025. This contract provides for consulting, analytical and reporting services through the collection, processing, maintenance and client access of eligibility, claims, biometric, provider, and disease management data from the Plan's third-party administrator, pharmacy benefit manager, medical management vendor, and other Plan vendors as needed.

To bridge the gap between our current Decision Support Service vendor contract ending and a new vendor being selected, with required implementation, additional time is needed.

Due to no extension rights remaining on our current vendor contract, extension through the end of the Fiscal Year 2025, or June 30, 2025, is requested. Mr. Hardwick made the motion to extend the contract through June 30, 2025. Mr. Chaney seconded the motion, which passed by a 7 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Buie (designee for member Evans), Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, and Carter (designee for member Smith) voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 9: 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 December 2024. Copies of the financial statements from December 2024 were provided to the Board members for review prior to the meeting. No action was required or taken by the Board on this matter.

Agenda Item 10: 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 few months.

Agenda Item 11: Old Business

Chairman Welch again recognized Mr. Emrick, who presented the tentative schedule of proposal selection process for the Pharmacy Benefit Manager RFP.

Agenda Item 12: New Business


Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Emrick, who stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Telemedicine services with UMMC is set to expire on March 1, 2025. Discussion with UMMC to continue the MOU were held in December 2024 and UMMC has stated that they do not want to continue the MOU. However, UMMC stated that at the expiration of the current MOU, UMMC will continue to provide Telemedicine services to the State Health Plan members from 7am through 7pm Monday through Friday. UMMC will no longer offer after hours or weekend availability.

Also in New Business, Mr. Emrick mentioned that the Office of Insurance was provided an example of participants requesting the Board review weight loss medication as a covered benefit.

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, February 26, 2025.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.



Liz Welch
Chairman
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board