

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

### **Standing Monthly Meeting March 26, 2025**

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened Wednesday, March 26, 2025, in Room 138 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. Kym Wiggins)*  
Mr. Mark Formby  
Mr. Jimmy Gathings *(via Teams)*  
Mr. Kelly Hardwick  
Mr. Ray Higgins  
Dr. Alfred Rankins  
Mr. Kell Smith

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

#### **Voting Members Absent**

#### **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. Carlotta Edwards *(via Teams)*  
Ms. Alicia Coleman *(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 February 26, 2025 Standing Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's February 26, 2025, 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 January as presented. Mr. Mark Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 9 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Wiggins (designee for member Evans), Formby, Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, and Smith voting affirmatively.

## **Agenda Item 2: Actuarial Report Calendar Year 2024**

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Wm. Lynn Townsend, FSA, MAAA, the Board's Consulting Actuary, who discussed his actuarial analysis of the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for calendar year 2024, providing historical and projected trend rates, and projected premium rate adjustments needed to meet the Plan's state funding objective.

## **Agenda Item 3: Selection of Decision Support Services Vendor**

At the January 22, 2025, Board meeting, the Board voted to authorize staff to release an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for decision support services. The Board's current contract with Health Data & Management Services (HDMS) for decision support services will expire on June 30, 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.

The IFB was released on January 28, 2025, with bids received in February. Staff conducted a thorough evaluation of the bids, with only one vendor proving to be responsive to the IFB, the vendor being Merative US L.P. (Merative).

Mr. Kelly Hardwick made a motion to approve entering into contract negotiations with Merative pursuant to the IFB. Mr. Chaney seconded the motion, which passed by a 9 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Wiggins (designee for member Evans), Formby, Gathings, Hardwick, Higgins, Rankins, and Smith voting affirmatively.

**Agenda Item 4: 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 previous two months. Copies of these 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 matter.

**Agenda Item 5: 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 6: Old Business**

There was no old business.

**Agenda Item 7: 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, April 23, 2025.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

  
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Liz Welch  
Chairman  
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board