

State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board

Standing Monthly Meeting October 22, 2025

The standing monthly meeting of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board convened on Wednesday, October 22, 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
Mr. Mike Chaney
Mr. Jimmy Gathings
Mr. Mark Formby
Mr. Kelly Hardwick
Mr. Kell Smith

Non-Voting Members Present

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

Voting Members Absent

Mr. Ray Higgins
Dr. Lance Evans (*represented by Kym Wiggins*)
Dr. Alfred Rankins

Non-Voting Members Absent

The Honorable Briggs Hopson - Chairman,
Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable John Read – Chairman,
House Appropriations Committee

Department of Finance and Administration Staff Present:

Mr. Bert Emrick
Mr. Patrick Black
Ms. Karen McKlemurry
Ms. Cheryl Wallace
Ms. Carlotta Edwards (*via Teams*)
Ms. Lori Paes (*via Teams*)
Ms. Alicia Coleman (*via Teams*)
Ms. Makleisha Logan-Hite (*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 September 24, 2025, Standing Monthly Board Meeting

Chairman Welch announced that the minutes of the Board's September 24, 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. Hardwick that the Board approve the minutes for July as presented. Mr. Formby seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Hardwick, Gathings, and Smith voting affirmatively.

Agenda Item 2: Financial and Compliance Reports

Chairman Welch recognized Ms. Cheryl Wallace, who briefly reviewed the financial statements for the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for the previous month. 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 3: Vendor Reports

No report for October.

Agenda Item 4: Executive Officer Report

Chairman Welch stated that they have met with BCBSMS and discussions are being held for BCBSMS to take over the utilization and care management review from Acentra and the health and wellness services from ActiveHealth. Final discussions will be presented to the Board at the November meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Contracting and Procurement

Ms. Welch recognized Mr. Patrick Black, who stated that there are no active procurement requests that require approval at this time.

Agenda Item 6: Strategic Framework Discussions

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick 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-six years. He advised that should the Board elect to continue this exemption for 2026, 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 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Hardwick, Gathings, and Smith voting affirmatively.

Mr. Emrick also 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.

Agenda Item 8: New Business

Chairman Welch recognized Mr. Bert Emrick, who informed the Board that the Mississippi State and School Employees' Health Insurance Management Board historically meets each month on the fourth Wednesday. In November and December, the Office of Insurance begins the process of reserving conference room space and IT coordination. In review of future calendar dates, State holidays have been identified as potentially interfering with the scheduled Board Meeting dates.

Fourth Wednesday of May 2026 falls during the Memorial Day holiday week
Fourth Wednesday of November 2026 falls during the Thanksgiving holiday week.

Mr. Formby made a motion to approve moving the May 2026 Board meeting up one week to May 20, 2026, due to the Memorial Day holiday week and moving November 2026 Board meeting up one week to November 18, 2026, due to the Thanksgiving holiday week. Mr. Harwick seconded the motion, which passed by a 6 – 0 vote, with members Burkhalter, Chaney, Formby, Hardwick, Gathings, 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 19, 2025.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.



Liz Welch
Chairman
State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board