

FINAL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD
AT THE OFFICES OF THE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
September 18, 2019

Members participating: Herb Ames; Robert Benkert (Oxford); Natalie Bernardi (Cigna); Chrissy Buteas*; Gary Cupo; Phil Gennace (DOBI); Taylor Kopelan (Horizon); Thomas Pownall (Aetna); Tony Taliaferro (AmeriHealth).

Others participating: Ellen DeRosa, Executive Director; Chanell McDevitt, Deputy Executive Director; Jeff Posta, Deputy Attorney General.

I. Call to Order

E. DeRosa called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. She announced that notice of the meeting was provided to three newspapers of general circulation and the State House Press Corps, and posted at the Department of Banking and Insurance (“DOBI”), on the DOBI website, and at the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Following a roll call, she determined there was a quorum present, and stated that all votes would be by roll call because some of the Board members were participating by phone.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Review of Minutes of August 21, 2019

H. Ames made a motion, seconded by T. Pownall, to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 21, 2019, without amendment. By roll call vote, the motion carried, with C. Buteas abstaining.

IV. Report of Staff

Second Draft of Policy Form Amendments

E. DeRosa noted she received little feedback from Board members since the last Board meeting, but had made additional revisions to help clarify the intent of certain changes. Discussions highlighted the following:

- Additional review is necessary of the draft revisions to the transplant section to clarify the description of covered transplant services.
- Revisions to the coverage of mental health services to address P.L. 2018, c. 58 (Chapter 58, which provides for mental health parity) by: replacing mental illness throughout with mental health condition, and including reference to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), in the definition of mental health condition; adding the definition of same terms and conditions to the forms; and, separately addressing

substance abuse disorder (SUD), which falls within the definition of mental health condition, but under New Jersey law is subject to a separate set of standards for SUD treatment.

- Restructuring of the therapy services provisions and presentation of therapy services on the Schedule page to clarify how limits on therapy may apply in different circumstances, resulting largely from Chapter 58, and its application to developmental disorders.
- Removal of the effective date for coverage of donated human breast milk, because the date has passed.
- Amendments to the provisions for “triggering events” would be revised to pick up certain circumstances not previously addressed in the forms.
- Removal of the 96-hour supply requirement for prescription drug benefits pending prior authorization for some drugs.
- Addition of variable text allowing carriers to cover the costs of immunizations administered by an eligible pharmacist (as a pharmacy benefit rather than as a medical benefit).
- Additional research is necessary with respect to the coverage of vitamins, and in particular, Legend drug vitamins.

E. DeRosa stated that Board members should review the draft, and try to be prepared to take action at the October Board meeting. She noted that to the extent that statutory requirements are in effect, or take effect shortly, carriers will have to comply with them administratively.

V. Annual Meeting – Reorganization of the Board

E. DeRosa reminded Board members that this was the Annual meeting, at which the Board typically elects its Chair and Vice Chair, and reconstitutes its standing committees.

Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

E. DeRosa stated that she asked M. Koller, who was unable to attend the meeting, but is the current Vice Chair, if she would be willing to serve another year if nominated, and that M. Koller had stated she would.

T. Pownall made a motion, seconded by H. Ames, to nominate and elect T. Taliaferro as Chair and M. Koller as Vice Chair of the Board. T. Taliaferro accepted the nomination, and upon determining there were no additional nominations, the motion carried by a roll call vote.

Reconstitution of the Standing Committees

E. DeRosa provided the current composition of the Board’s standing committees, as follows:

- Legal Committee: Aetna, AmeriHealth, DOBI, Horizon
- Finance & Audit Committee: AmeriHealth, DOBI, Horizon, United, H. Ames
- Marketing Committee: DOBI, United

There was no indication of any Board members seeking to add or remove themselves from any committee.

T. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by T. Pownall, to reconstitute the Legal Committee, the Finance & Audit Committee, and the Marketing Committee each with its existing composition for another year. By roll call vote, the motion carried.

VI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VII. Close of Meeting

H. Ames made a motion, seconded by P. Gennace, to close the meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried.

[The meeting adjourned at 10:53 A.M.]

*C. Buteas was apparently disconnected from the call at some time after the review of the August 2019 minutes, but prior to voting to reorganize the Board and reconstitute standing committees. The Board continued to have a quorum present during the remainder of the meeting.