

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD
HELD TELEPHONICALLY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 103 (MURPHY)
April 17, 2024**

Members Present:

Herbert K. Ames
Robert Axelrod
Alison Birzon
Gary Cupo
Phil Gennace
Margaret Koller
Jason Premus
Bob Morrow
Thomas Pownall
Adam Young

Others:

Jeffrey Posta, (DAG)

I. Call to Order

M. Koller called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

II. Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

III. Review of Meeting Minutes

G. Cupo made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2024, with amendments suggested by M. Koller which included capitalizing B in Board, adding Armonie Pierre-Jacques as a public attendee, and confirming a comment by B. Morrow rather than R. Axelrod. This motion was seconded by T. Pownall and R. Axelrod. A. Birzon, P. Gennace, M. Koller, G. Cupo, B. Morrow, T. Pownall, and A. Young voted yes, and J. Premus abstained. The motion carried.

IV. Update on Implementation of P.L. 2023, c. 194

P. Gennace emphasized that the first step in implementing P.L. 2023, c. 194 was to update policy forms. The Department is preparing draft policy forms which will be shared with the Board for discussion over the next couple of meetings in order to expedite adoption. One of the substantial modifications to the forms includes changes to the formulary structure. The Department welcomes Board input over the next several weeks as the drafts are being prepared. Additionally, Chapter 194 imposes additional cost sharing restrictions, so maximum out of pocket figures need to be updated. P. Gennace said the goal is to send out a draft of the policy forms prior to the next meeting on May 15th. He said that the Department welcomes comments and feedback from the Board.

P. Gennace also mentioned other regulations that must be updated to comply with existing laws. For example, P.L. 2023, c. 275 limits coverage to one hearing aid every 24 months. Some of the other changes the Board has already been reviewing concern caps on cost sharing for hearing aids, EpiPens, and insulin. Additionally, changes related to telehealth will need to be updated in the regulations.

M. Koller asked if it would help P. Gennace to get a deadline for comments?

P. Gennace said that he would prefer comments by April 26th because that gives the Department time to review and finalize the policy forms for the May meeting.

K. Jarosz asked whether the proposed changes would be effective January 1st or if the Board would be entertaining a mid-year change to the regulations. K. Jarosz also asked if there would also be an end of year change to the regulations. K. Jarosz proposed that the Board be strategic along those two timelines.

P. Gennace stated that the proposed changes are not intended to be a mid-year change and will be effective for the 2025 plan year.

K. Jarosz stated that she was pleased that the Board was timely in implementing these changes early.

P. Gennace stated that the Department's goal is that the P.L. 2023, c. 194 regulatory updates will be in place for the 2025 plan year.

M. Koller asked P. Gennace for any other material updates.

P. Gennace responded and said that pursuant to P.L. 2023, c. 182, the Department is working on a market study. P. Gennace also indicated that a data call is being made for that study and that carriers need to respond to that soon.

G. Cupo asked how long the study will take.

P. Gennace indicated that the study will be finished by the end of the year.

M. Koller reminded carriers to submit comments related to the updated policy forms to P. Gennace by April 26th, so the Department had ample time to review them.

V. Close of Meeting

M. Koller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. H. Ames seconded the motion. All voting members present voted yes. The motion was carried.

[The meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.]

Public known to be in attendance:

Armonie Pierre-Jacques (NJ Health Care Quality Institute)

Lindsey Wolfe (Aetna)

Julie Bogorad (AmeriHealth)

Dana Kelly (Horizon)

Kelly Ferreira (Horizon)

Kristen Jarosz (Horizon)