

**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
August 25, 2004**

Members participating by teleconference from remote locations: Thomas Collins; Gary Cupo; Darrel Farkus (United); Jack Kalosy (HealthNet); Mary McClure (Aetna); Ulysses Lee (Guardian); Tony Taliaferro (AmeriHealth); Joseph Tricarico, Jr. (DOHSS); Dutch Vanderhoof; Melanie Willoughby (joined the call at 2:22 p.m.).

Members participating by teleconference from Trenton: Vicki Mangiaracina (DOBI).

Others participating by teleconference: Ellen DeRosa, Deputy Executive Director; DAG Karyn Gordon, Division of Law; Rosaria Lenox, Program Accountant.

I. Call to Order

E. DeRosa called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. She announced that notice of the meeting had been published in three newspapers and posted at the Department of Banking and Insurance (“DOBI”), the DOBI website, and the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. By roll call, she determined that a quorum was participating on the call.

Since Board members were participating by teleconference, she asked everyone to identify themselves when speaking.

II. Staff Report

E. DeRosa explained that the sole purpose for the teleconference was to allow the Board to consider a number of optional benefit rider filings that were received since the Board’s July meeting. She asked the Board to refer to the Staff Report that was sent both by facsimile and email to Board members earlier in the day. She explained that she would briefly discuss the riders, and respond to any questions from Board members regarding the riders.

Aetna Life Insurance Company

E. DeRosa described the rider that would add coverage for domestic partners. She said the filing was unusual in that the carrier requested permission to use the rider as of July 10, 2004, the effective date of the law requiring that coverage be made available. She recommended that the Board find the filing complete and grant the request to use the rider as of July 10, 2004.

Aetna Health

E. DeRosa described the riders that would provide limited vision coverage, one amending HMO plans and the other amending HMO-POS plans. She recommended that the Board find the filing complete.

V. Mangiaracina offered a motion to find the Aetna Life and the Aetna Health filings complete and permit issue of the domestic partner rider as of July 10, 2004. D. Vanderhoof seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board voted in favor of the motion, with M. McClure abstaining.

Health Net

E. DeRosa briefly described the 14 riders Health Net submitted. She noted that some amend HMO plans and others amend HMO-POS plans. The riders provide various levels of coverage for prescription drugs, provide for various levels of copays/deductible and coinsurance for network services, provide for access to network providers without referral, waive specified copayments, provide acupuncture coverage and amend the age for dependent children coverage. She recommended that the Board find the filing complete.

D. Vanderhoof offered a motion to find the Health Net filing complete. G. Cupo seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board voted in favor of the motion, with J. Kalosy and U. Lee abstaining.

Horizon

E. DeRosa briefly described the rider Horizon submitted. She noted that it was included with a submission of decreasing value riders, but that the rider contained no decreases and was thus being considered as an increasing value rider. The rider creates a 100/80/60 PPO plan. She recommended that the Board find the filing complete.

[M. Willoughby joined the call.]

J. Kalosy offered a motion to find the Horizon filing complete. T. Taliaferro seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board voted in favor of the motion, with M. Willoughby abstaining.

E. DeRosa noted that rider filings have still not been submitted by all carriers marketing SEH plans and specifically identified United Healthcare as a carrier in that situation.

III. Close of Meeting

G. Cupo offered a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. T. Collins seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

[The meeting adjourned at 2:27p.m.]

Attachments: Staff Report