

New Jersey School Employees'  
Health Benefits Commission  
Open Session Minutes  
May 20, 2024

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided through the annual notice of the schedule of regular meetings of the Commission filed with and prominently posted in the offices of the Secretary of State. The 2024 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 29, 2023, and Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 29, 2023. The annual meeting schedule was posted on the Division website on December 29, 2023.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 10:00 am, taking place at the Department of Pensions and Benefits in Trenton, New Jersey.

The text of Resolution A (Closed Session) and Resolution B (Executive Session) were read in their entirety in the event that the Commission desires, at any point in the meeting, to approve a motion to go into Closed or Executive session.

Kelly Fields took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

**Committee Members:**

**Denise Graff Policastro**, Chair  
**Sonia Rivera-Perez**  
**Sarah Favinger**  
**Carl Tanksley**  
**Phillip Gennace**  
**Kelly Fields**, Secretary

**Also Present:**

**Binsy Francis**, Horizon  
**Timothy O'Shea**, Horizon  
**Kate Miller**, Optum  
**Adam Demarzo**, Optum  
**Susan Flynn**, Ethics Training  
**Jacquelyn Weimer**, Deputy Ethics Liaison Officer  
**Jessica Koterba**, Member Appeal

**Absent:**

**Michael Maillaro**  
**Julie Giordano Plotkin**

The Committee Members first participated in a mandatory Ethics training with Susan Flynn, Jacquelyn Weimer, and Amanda Truppa.

The Committee Members took a 10 minute break.

**Interim Chair:**

Phillip Gennace made a motion to nominate Denise Graff Policastro as the interim chair. Sonia Rivera Perez seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to approve the March 25, 2024 Open and Executive Session meeting minutes. Sarah Favinger seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Sonia Rivera Perez and Phillip Gennace abstained.

Sonia Rivera Perez made a motion to go into Closed Session to hear the Closed Session appeals that contain protected health information. Phillip Gennace seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

**The following cases, due to HIPAA regulations, were heard in Closed Session:**

**Case #2024052001:**The Member delivered her newborn prematurely due to the member being diagnosed with preeclampsia. The member conceived again, which ended up being an ectopic pregnancy, causing the member to lose her right fallopian tube and right ovary. Due to the high risk pregnancies, the member implanted Essure. The member has since been remarried and was hopeful to have another child. The member does not qualify for IVF services since the member has the Essure implanted.

Horizon presented their case, stating that Horizon received a request for prior authorization for IVF. Horizon stated that one of the exclusions in the infertility mandate is if the member has been sterilized, IVF is not covered, therefore the IVF was denied.

Phillip Gennace made a motion to enter Executive Session. Sonia Rivera Perez seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to approve the request for IVF services. Carl Tanksley seconded the motion; Sonia Rivera Perez, Phillip Gennace, and Carl Tanksley voted no; Denise Graff Policastro and Sarah Favinger voted yes. The motion did not pass.

**Case #2024052002:** This is a workers compensation claim with a recommendation that the plan resolve the claim for a sum not less than the money given, and the limited settlement and the potential for no recovery.

Sonia Rivera Perez requested to move a motion to vote on the two total workers compensation claims as a block.

**Case #2024052003:** This is a workers compensation claim with a recommendation that the plan resolve this claim for a sum not less than the \$5,000 given and the limited settlement and the potential for no recovery.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to enter Executive Session. Carl Tanksley seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to approve workers compensation **Case #2024052002**. Carl Tanksley seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to table workers compensation **Case #2024052003** due to a missing section in the document. Phillip Gennace seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to return to Open Session. Sarah Favinger seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

**Specialty Pharmacy Horizon Update:**

Binsy Francis and Tim O’Shea presented a quick update on the medical pharmacy piece that Horizon is managing. Horizon went through the 2023 savings and provided the new initiatives that are going to happen in 2024. Tim O’Shea touched base on high level drugs, high level spend and trend, and the medical injectable program.

**Optum Formulary Update:**

Kate Miller and Adam Demarzo presented the July 1<sup>st</sup> formulary update. Kate Miller touched base on the standard formulary changes, the summary of utilization management update, the summary of total member disruptions from the July 1<sup>st</sup> updates, the healthcare reform update, the utilization management performance, and the quantity limit update.

Sonia Rivera Perez made a motion to adjourn. Phillip Gennace seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Fields  
Acting Secretary  
School Employees' Health  
Benefits Commission