

School Employees' Health Benefits Program

Plan Design Committee

Open Session Minutes: February 16, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held telephonically.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided through the annual notice of the schedule of regular meetings of the Committee filed with and prominently posted in the offices of the Secretary of State. . The 2021 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 19, 2020, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 23, 2020. Updates regarding the Telephonic meeting were sent to the Secretary of State and posted to the Divisions Website on February 2, 2021.

The meeting of the School Employees' Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Monday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held telephonically.

The text of Resolution B (Executive Session) – was read in its entirety in the event that the Committee desires, at any point in the meeting, to approve a motion to go into closed session.

Acting Secretary Ludwig took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Roll Call

Committee Members:

Julie Giordano Plotkin, NJEA

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, Assistant Treasurer

Donna Chiera, AFT/AFL-CIO

Lynn Azarchi- Director Office of Management and Budget

Absent:

Kevin Kelleher, NJEA

John Megariotis, Acting Director, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Also Present:

Christin Deacon, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Andrew Lawson, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Debra Pelto, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Amy Chung, Deputy Attorney General

Alison Keating, Deputy Attorney General

Division Updates

Assistant Director Christin Deacon provided the Committee members with an update regarding the current COVID 19 crisis. She explained that as of February 7, 2021 COVID claims paid for the commercial population have been \$57.8 million. That includes, inpatient, outpatient, professional, as well as labs. She advised that the Medicare population the claims paid are \$33.7 million. Mrs. Deacon stated that Division is still in the process of managing the vaccine reporting as there are a lot of different outlets where the information is coming from, including CMS for the Medicare population.

She explained that the telemedicine utilization appears to be stabilizing, however, notes that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic there is an increase in utilization, specifically in behavioral health segment for both populations.

Mrs. Deacon stated that the Division continues to increase the wellness-related events through email with the members. The Division is increasing social media presence as well. She encourages the Committee members, as well as any public member listening to follow the Division of Pensions and Benefits Health Benefits section on social media.

PRESENTATION: OPTUMRX PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS

Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig introduced TRUVERIS the Contracted PBM Consultant to the SHBP/SEHBP. She stated Truveris will work alongside OptumRx in this presentation, she explained Truveris managed the most recent reverse auction for the recent PBM contract. Truveris also provides consulting and invoice review for the State.

Joshua Allen of Truveris presented to the Committee members, stating Prior Authorizations (PA) are in place to ensure that medications are being dispensed in accordance with the FDA indications and treatment guidelines. Joe Thomas the Clinician from Truveris went over the clinical needs for a PA. Mr. Thomas provided the example of ACTIQ which is fentanyl. He stated fentanyl is FDA approved for only one indication, which is break-through pain associated with cancer for those who are already on round the clock opioids to manage the pain. He stated that over the years off-label use is increasing. By having a PA in place it not only ensures the plan is in compliance with the FDA, but it ensures the safety of its members.

Kate Miller of OptumRx presented on the Utilization management programs, specifically the PA requirements in place for the SEHBP. She stated that not only does having a PA in place ensure efficacy and safety of the members, it also provides cost avoidance. She stated in 2020 the current utilization management resulted in a \$38.8 million cost avoidance. As it relates to PA this is a cost avoidance of just over \$22.5 million. With a member disruption of 13% impacted.

Mrs. Miller stated the PA approval rate for the SEHBP is at 90% with a quick turnaround for response. She stated one example of a medication that is on the PA requirements, and that oftentimes sees a denial is STELARA, a medication used to treat Crohn's disease. She stated the majority of denials are due

to wrong strengths being prescribed. When this happens an outreach is made to the provider, and usually results in a corrected dosage being prescribed, and filled.

Steve White, of OptumRx went over PreCheck My Script, a tool made available to providers. This tool allows the providers to check if the medication has any utilization management requirements, such as a PA. This would allow the prescribers to initiate the PA process at the time of prescribing the medication. Mr. White stated as of 2020 about 18.2% of physicians are utilizing the program, which has resulted in a positive impact for approximately 24.5% of the SEHBP membership.

Adjournment

Having no further matters to discuss, Committee member Chiera made a motion to adjourn, Committee member Giordano-Plotkin seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Ludwig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary SEHBP PDC