

School Employees' Health Benefits Program

Plan Design Committee

Open Session Minutes: March 30, 2020 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. A meeting notice was mailed to the Secretary of State, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 20, 2018.

The meeting of the School Employees' Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Monday, March 30, 2020 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

Kevin Kelleher, NJEA

John Megariotis, Director, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, Assistant Treasurer

Donna Chiera, AFT/AFL-CIO

David Ridolfino- Director Office of Management and Budget

Also Present:

Christin Deacon, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Andrew Lawson, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Christopher Meyer, Deputy Attorney General

Division Updates

Assistant Director Christin Deacon provided the Committee members with an update regarding the current COVID-19 crisis as well as the Divisions response. Mrs. Deacon advised that the Division has employees working both in the office, as well as working remotely. She stated that the Division has staff who are able to process applications, and will continue to do so as long as needed. She stated that the both Aetna as well as Horizon have started waiving all cost sharing for both in and out of network visits associated with medically necessary testing and treatment of COVID-19. OptumRx has relaxed restrictions and have implemented a refill too soon override, as well as extended prior authorizations set to expire over the next 90 days.

Mrs. Deacon advised that telemedicine and telehealth are seeking to rapidly expand and assist the GPA with expanding access. Telemedicine and telehealth will be at no cost share to the members, providers will be able to continue to bill for the services.

Chairperson Kelleher asked Mrs. Deacon if the Division has any plans to move to an online application process for Health Benefits. Mrs. Deacon advised that the Division has been in the process of contracting with a vendor which will hopefully will be live in the fall of 2020.

Chairperson Kelleher asked about surgeries which may be delayed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Do the carriers have any insight into what this will look like and he implication. Mrs. Deacon stated the Division has asked Aetna and Horizon to model potential scenarios regarding surgeries both elective and non-elective. She stated she will share the information with the Committee as soon as possible.

Chairperson Kelleher asked what the Committee can do to support the Division during this time. Mrs. Deacon said the most valuable support is communication with members. She added that with limited staff who have access to both emails and calls, any communication the unions can provide is most appreciated. Director Megariotis added to this stating that the Division is working to deem essential personnel in order to keep things moving smoothly. Chairperson Kelleher asked if there has been any issues with rolling over new school districts into the SEHBP due to COVID-19. He asked if the Division is considering extending the timeline from 60 days to 90 days. Mrs. Deacon stated that at this time the Division is keeping up with all applications, therefore there is no need to change the timeline. However the Division will continue to be closely monitor the situation.

Committee Member Keyes-Maloney thanked the Division for the continued assistance and the ability to continue to work as “normal” as possible, including in the ability to continue to meet telephonically.

Adjournment

Having no further matters to discuss, Committee member Giordano Plotkin made a motion to adjourn, Committee member Chiera seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Ludwig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary SEHBP PDC