

School Employees' Health Benefits Program

Plan Design Committee

Open Session Minutes: April 19, 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 April 5, 2021.

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

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

Lynn Azarchi- Director, Office of Management and Budget

Kevin Kelleher- NJEA

John Megariotis- Acting Director, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Absent:

Donna Chiera, AFT/AFL-CIO

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 stated there was a request for the most current enrollment figures. She stated in the active group approximately 42 percent of the population remain in NJDirect 10; 36 percent are in the New Jersey Educators plan; 22 percent are in NJDirect15. She stated pursuant to Chapter 44 all early retirees have been moved to the New Jersey Educators Plan (NJEHP).

Committee member Kelleher asked that the Division begin to discuss educational videos to outline the different plans. Mrs. Deacon said that was a good idea and said the Division will work on creating the videos.

Mrs. Deacon gave an update on the COVID-19 testing, stating that from March 2, 2020 to April 11, 2021 the SEHBP has conducted a total of 275,800 molecular tests, with a total of 31,200 positive results. The total COVID paid to date claims is \$73.6 million.

Mrs. Deacon said regarding the Vaccinations, there are several different sources to pull data, citing that the vaccine can be covered under the Medical or the Prescription side. She stated on the Medicare Advantage side, due to lags in reporting from CMS, these numbers may not be up to date. There are 21,000 fully vaccinated members who received the two dose vaccine, there are 1,000 members who received the single dose vaccine. Mrs. Deacon stated the active population is close to having 50,000 members fully vaccinated.

Follow Up: Horizon Behavioral Health

Chairperson Keyes-Maloney stated this item has been added to the agenda to allow any committee members to ask any follow up questions. Committee member Kelleher took the opportunity to thank Horizon for being a good partner with the SEHBP.

Mrs. Deacon reminded the Committee members the Behavioral Health Summit will be held on May 19, 2021, invitations have been sent out.

Follow Up: Rethink Benefits:

Chairperson Keyes-Maloney thanked the Division for bringing Rethink to the PDC for consideration. She stated it is something that she feels the PDC should explore further. Committee member Kelleher made a motion to ask the Division as administrators to investigate onboard effective solutions, like Rethink. As well as ask the Division to develop an effective communication strategy, to be presented at a later date. Chairperson Keyes-Maloney seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

COVID-19 Vaccine Overview

Kim Ward and Bob Rose, of Aetna presented the COVID-19 vaccine strategy not only with the Medicare Advantage plans, but from the broader strategy from CVS Health.

Dr. Serrano from Aetna went over the strategy, stating that as of earlier in the month the J&J vaccine distribution was suspended. She stated the appointments for these vaccines have been rescheduled to either Pfizer or Moderna. Dr. Serrano stated CVS is offering a member outreach to answer any questions that pertain to the vaccine.

Chairperson Keyes-Maloney asked if there has been an uptick in the amount of questions regarding the suspension of the J&J vaccine. Dr. Serrano stated that if a member has a J&J vaccine scheduled they were proactively outreached and the appointment were either cancelled or rescheduled. She stated she will follow up regarding the increase in calls.

Dr. Serrano went over the various channels of engagement with the public, stating there is a coactive outreach to those people who are socially more vulnerable. She stated there is an limited amount of appointments and she understands that many are up late at night trying to secure an appointment. To assist with this CVS is releasing just-in-time emails and text messages. These are emails or text messages alerting people when appointments become available.

Committee Member Kelleher thanked Aetna for bringing this strategy to the PDC.

Adjournment

Having no further matters to discuss, Committee member Giordano-Plotkin made a motion to adjourn, Committee member Megariotis seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary SEHBP PDC