

**State Health Benefits Program**  
**Plan Design Committee**  
**Open Session Minutes: February 23, 2022 1:00 p.m.**

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 on December 10, 2021, and the Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 15, 2021. Updates regarding the Telephonic meeting was sent to the Secretary of State and posted to the Division's website on January 13, 2022.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.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 Nicole Ludwig led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Secretary Ludwig then took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call**

**Committee Members:**

**Jennifer Keyes-Maloney**, Assistant Treasurer (Co-Chair)

**Michael Zanyor**, NJSTFA

**Lynn Azarchi**, Director, Office of Management and Budget

**Kevin Lyons**, NJ State PBA

**Justin Zimmerman**, Chief of Staff, Department of Banking and Insurance

**Tennille McCoy**, Assistant Commissioner of Human Capital Strategies, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Kimberly Holmes** Assistant Commissioner /Chief of Staff, Department of Community Affairs

**Robert Little**, AFSCME Department of Research

**Patrick Nowlan**, AAUP – AFT (Co-Chair)

**Andrea Spalla**

**Other Staff**

**Alison Keating**, Deputy Attorney General

**Nicole Ludwig**, Division of Pensions and Benefits

**Theresa Williams**, Division of Pensions and Benefits

**Debra Pelto**, Division of Pensions and Benefits

**Binsy Francis**, Horizon

**Steve White**, Optum

**Ryan Livingston**, Grand Rounds

**Dr. Phil Zuzolo**, Grand Rounds

**Eric Weiner**, Grand Rounds

## **MEETING MINUTES**

A copy of the meeting minutes for the April 2021, June 2021, September 2021, and October 2021 meetings were provided to Committee Members prior to the meeting. Committee Member Zaynor made a motion to approve all minutes. Committee Member Holmes seconded. All voted in favor, except for Committee Member Spalla who abstained as she was not present at the meetings they were voting on. There were no objections. The motion passed.

## **DIVISION UPDATE**

OptumRX had previously advised that they will be covering the cost of the over-the-counter (OTC) at-home COVID-19 test kits for active and non-medicare eligible members of the SHBP and SEHBP, up to 8 tests per person per calendar month, to comply with the federal administrative directive. These tests are FDA approved or EUA cleared, including tests obtained without a health care provider's order, prescription or authorization. Members are encouraged to use OptumRX in-network pharmacies to avoid reimbursement delays or added costs when using out-of-network vendors. Optum has announced that the in-network pharmacies have expanded, and members can also purchase the at-home tests through the Optum store.

The Division of Pensions and Benefits was asked to track the cost of the initiative. As of February 21, 2022, across both the SHBP and SEHBP, the total cost was \$205,454.74. As a total, the plan covered 19,601 tests. The SHBP spend was \$168,371.79 for a total of 16,082 tests. This was broken down to Local Government Actives total spend of \$25,387.19, State Actives total spend of \$120,137.01, Local Government Early Retirees total spend of \$9,800.03, and the State Early Retiree total spend of \$13,047.16. The SEHBP total spend was \$37,082.92. This broke down to \$22,469.70 for Active members for 2,135 tests and \$14,613.25 for Early Retirees for 1,384 tests.

## **GRAND ROUNDS PRESENTATION**

Ryan Livingston, Eric Weiner, and Dr. Phil Zuzolo from Grand Rounds by Included Health gave a presentation regarding their partnership with the State to provide expert medical opinions through a remote service. This allows members to get an expert second opinion from the top clinical minds in the country for every specialty and subspecialty. Where there is a recommendation for a change in treatment, the member would be matched with high quality in-network providers, and all member would have access to clinical staff to answer questions regarding medication or courses of treatment. Members are never required to follow the recommendations.

## JOINT SUBGROUP DISCUSSION

Committee Member Keyes-Maloney a rough outline of the process and a request for an additional potential subgroup. The goal of the subgroup would be to identify vendors or concepts that present themselves to PDC members, and have their information given to the Chair, along with the Acting Secretary, Nicole Ludwig and Assistant Director, Joyce Malerba. The Division would review the information provided for the topic or area that the vendor is covering, to see if the services are already covered by the plan or if there is an area that should be explored and determine if there are any contractual challenges. At that point, the subgroup would be convened to receive the findings, and determine if it would be topically beneficial for the Plan Design Committee to consider. The joint subgroup would allow both the SHBP PDC and SEHB PDC to work collaboratively. The processed will allow the Committees to review options that may be beneficial to members, and does not potentially disadvantage any vendors. Committee Member Lyons made a motion to establish the subgroup. Committee Member Spalla seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

## ADJOURNMENT

Having no further action to discuss, Committee Member Lyons made a motion to adjourn. Committee Member Holmes seconded the motion; all voted in favor. The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.

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 SHBP PDC