

State Health Benefits Commission

Open Session Minutes

July 8, 2020

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 2020 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 26, 2019. Updates regarding the telephonic meeting were sent to the Secretary of State on May 22, 2020.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 10 am. Due to health and safety concerns for the public regarding COVID-19, the meeting of July 8, 2020, was not held in-person and instead be conducted via teleconference.

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.

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

Commissioners:

Susanne Culliton, representing State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio

Gail Simon, representing Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance Marlene Caride

Dudley Burdge, Representative for Local Government Employees

Deirdre Webster Cobb, CEO, Civil Service Commission (appearing telephonically)

Debra Davis, Representative for State Government Employees

Also Present:

Cristopher Meyer, Deputy Attorney General

Christin Deacon, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Andrew Lawson, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Open Session Appeals

Case #0708202001: This open session appeal was tabled from the May Commission meeting and is regards to eligibility into the State Health Benefits Plan from 2008 through 2014. Ms. Orenberg-Ruggieri, reviewed the case. Chairperson Culliton asked if the issue before the Commission, is if the Commission is entitled to take a look at the enrollment. Mrs. Orenberg-Riggieri confirmed.

Mr. Whittlesey, the attorney for the location stated the PERS board fraud department has records that confirmed that the member was a contracted employee.

Chairperson Culliton made a motion to go into Executive Session to seek advice from the Deputy Attorney General. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

Upon return from Executive Session, Chairperson Culliton made a motion to deny the appeal based upon the fact that the member did not meet the definition of employee under the statutes and regulations that govern the State Health Benefits Plan. Commissioner Burge Seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Case # 0708202002: Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig explained the request for a hearing in the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Chairperson Culliton, in light of the new medical documentation made a motion to approve the request for the appeal to be transmitted to the OAL. Commissioner Simon seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Case #0708202003: Chairperson Culliton made a motion to authorize Equian to settle the matter as presented. Commissioner Burge seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Case #0708202004: Chairperson Culliton made a motion to authorize Equian to settle the matter as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Chairperson Culliton made a motion to go into Closed Session to hear Appels that contain protected health information. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

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

Case # 0708202005: The member advised the Commission that they are waiting for the attorney to join.

Chairperson Culliton made a motion to go into Executive Session to seek advice from the Deputy Attorney General. Commissioner Simon seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session Chairperson Culliton made a motion to table the appeal to allow the member time to consult with counsel and to return at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting to present the case. Commissioner Simon seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Chairperson Culliton made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary
State Health Benefits Commission