

State Health Benefits Program
Plan Design Committee
Open Session Minutes: March 23, 2020 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, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 26, 2019.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Monday, March 23, 2020 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 Ludwig took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Roll Call

Committee Members:

Dini Ajmani, Assistant Treasurer

Patrick Nowlan, AAUP – AFT (Chair) (Appearing Telephonically)

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

Michael Zanyor, NJSTFA

Kevin Lyons, NJ State PBA

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

Kimberly Holmes EEO/AA Officer, Department of Community Affairs

Robert Little, AFSCME Department of Research (Appearing Telephonically)

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

Absent:

Hetty Rosenstein, New Jersey Area Director, CWA/District 1

David Ridolfino, Director, Office of Management and Budget

David Kreuger, NJ FMBA

Also Present:

Christopher Meyer, Deputy Attorney General

Christin Deacon Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Andrew Lawson Division of Pensions and Benefits

Pledge of Allegiance:

Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig led the PDC in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Michael Zanyor made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 28, September 6 and September 25. Committee member Ajmani seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Division Updates

Assistant Director Christin Deacon provided the Committee with an update regarding the COVID-19 crisis. She stated that there is a waiver of member cost share for all covered telemedicine visits. She stated that all treatment including testing and direct treatment for COVID-19 is covered at no cost share to the members.

Co-Chair Patrick Nowlan asked how the telemedicine piece is being communicated to the members. Mrs. Deacon stated it is posted to the Division website and is being communicated directly to members. Co-Chair Nowlan asked if there was an exception related to labs which would allow labs other than Quest/LabCorp related to COVID testing. Mrs. Deacon said she does not have information on that at this time.

Mrs. Deacon stated that there have been some updates related to the prescription. The refill too soon edit for members has been turned off. She explained this will allow members to fill their prescriptions early if needed in light of the health crisis. She stated that anyone with a Prior Authorization (PA) would have this PA extended for 90 days unless it is a new drug therapy.

Committee member Kevin Lyons asked if the state will follow the IRS guidance regarding the high deductible plans. Mrs. Deacon stated that the SHBP has followed the IRS guidance and will be waiving cost sharing for the high deductible plans. Committee Member Lyons asked if the SHBP will turn off the off-label restrictions related to COVID-19 treatment. Mrs. Deacon said that to date there is not a treatment for COVID-19 however there is a drug hydrochloroquine which is being closely monitored. She stated this medication is available in generic form, and would cost approximately \$131 per course. If determined it should be used for treatment of COVID-19 there would not be an impediment for members

getting this due to formulary restrictions. Co-Chair Jennifer Keyes-Maloney stated this is something to watch, and not to act on until the guidance is given.

Scott Draeger, a senior VP of OptumRx Clinical Consulting stated that OptumRx is actively monitoring the medication as well as eight potential therapies that may be used in treatment. Mr. Draeger stated that there are no restrictions or PA requirement that would prevent a patient from filling this prescription. Committee Member Lyons stated he wanted to be sure that there would not be any barriers to members getting any therapeutics that would be used in treatment. Committee member Ajmani asked what would happen if a drug is found to be in treatment, but is non-formulary what happens. Mr. Draeger stated that if a drug is found to be effective and is not on the formulary, OptumRx would schedule a same-day emergency meeting to ensure that there would be coverage for the product.

Committee member Michael Zanyor asked if there are any other therapeutics that are being discussed outside the hydrochloroquine, and the chloroquine medications. Mr. Draeger said that there are several experimental, however nothing has been approved for treatment of COVID-19. Mrs. Deacon stated that if a drug was to come out tomorrow the Division would convene the PDC to make them aware as quickly as possible.

DISCUSSION: OptumRx Formulary

Scott Draeger of OptumRx went over the formulary presentation that was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting. Committee member Zanyor said it makes sense to exclude Over the Counter (OTC) medications, as they OTC product is significantly less expensive, however from a member perspective, they are paying more. From the member perspective, Optum is cutting the benefit. Committee Member Bob Little stated that he has heard the same from his members. Mrs. Deacon explained that the issue started with the previous PBM, as OTC medications should have always been excluded. However, Express Scripts (ESI) was not following the contract. OptumRx has been directed to comply with the contract as it is written. She stated that the \$10,000 OTC vitamin that was being covered by the plan in error was feeding into the premium and ultimately contributes to the cost for the members. Committee Member Zanyor stated he agrees with the change, however the issue is still the education of the members, who see that they are now paying \$20 for an OTC that they were previously paying \$7 for under the plan. Co-Chair Jennifer Keyes Maloney suggested that a subgroup be formed to discuss the formulary.

Kevin Lyons made a motion to form a sub-group to focus on formulary discussions. Michael Zanyor seconded the motion; all voted in favor. The six members on the subgroup are: Kevin Lyons, Bob Little, Michael Zanyor, Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, Dini Ajmani and Tennille McCoy.

PRESENTATION: Horizon Behavioral Health Initiatives for 2020

Rachel Goldberg of Horizon went over the Horizon Behavioral Health initiative for 2020, which were provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting. Mrs. Goldberg explained that the SHBP now has a relationship with AbleTo which is a coaching and counseling program for members with chronic physical health and behavioral conditions. She also explained that through Horizon the SHBP has partnered with Joyable a cognitive therapy for people with low anxiety.

Co-Chair asked how out-of-network mental health providers are being made aware they can submit claims. Mrs. Goldberg stated that a press release has gone out to the provider, as well as Horizon has been fielding calls. Committee member Zanyor asked if there have been any changes to the way the claims for out-of-network providers are being reimbursed. Denise Mizell of Horizon stated that there have been no changes to the way the reimbursement is made. Committee member Little asked if AbleTo is designed for those who do not have severe mental issues. Mrs. Goldberg stated that AbleTo is designed for those with middle of the continuum of need. Joyable is for those with low level of need.

Committee Member Lyons asked that the subgroup that was created in 2019 reconvene to discuss this topic.

Adjournment

Having no other further items to discuss, Co-Chairperson Nowlan made a motion to adjourn. Committee member Little seconded the motion; all voted in favor. The meeting concluded at 2:54 pm.

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 SHBP PDC