

State Health Benefits Program
Plan Design Committee
Open Session Minutes: August 13, 2021 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 29, 2020, and Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 23, 2020. Updates regarding the Telephonic meeting was sent to the Star Ledger and posted to the Division's website on August 5, 2021.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, August 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.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 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 (Co-Chair)

Dini Ajmani, Assistant Treasurer

Lynn Azarchi, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Kevin Lyons, NJ State PBA

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

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

Patrick Nowlan, AAUP – AFT

Jenelle Blackman, CWA

Robert Little, AFSCME Department of Research

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

David Krueger, NJ FMBA

Also Present:

Alison Keating, Deputy Attorney General

Amy Chung, Deputy Attorney General

Christin Deacon Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

DIVISION REPORT

Assistant Director Christin Deacon presented the Telemedicine utilization on prior to the onset of the pandemic. Stating that in 2018 there were 400 telemedicine claims, the utilization jumped to over one million in 2020 and continues to stay above one million in 2021. This as a monumental change in the health care industry. She stated that at this time the utilization and claims from Urgent Care Centers (UCC) has surpassed the in-person utilization. This is something she feels needs to be monitored, and could be the result of the pandemic. Committee Member Lyons stated the utilization was surprisingly high, by 16%. He stated that if New Jersey was paying the telemedicine rate currently for UCC the budget would increase by \$8million. Mrs. Deacon agreed, and stated this is a great opportunity to drive the membership to more efficient care via telemedicine. She added that this is the type of information and analysis that would need to be done before the PDC could implement any changes. Co-Chair Zanyor asked if the change in telemedicine could encourage the creation of a state level CSR reserve to help with the anomalies that will come out of COVID-19. Mrs. Deacon said this would be a decision for the Commissions and she would suggest such a reserve.

Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney stated there is pending legislation that would encourage a deeper dive into telemedicine. Committee Member Ajmani asked if the pending legislation would require providers to have in state locations. Committee Member Lyons said it did.

Assistant Director Deacon gave a presentation on HMS, she stated that HMS is providing pre-pay clinical review, post pay, claims edits and analytics. She stated they will be rolling out Ellie the fraud capture and data warehouse.

Mrs. Deacon advised the Committee members that she will be leaving the Division effective for August 19, 2021 to pursue other things. However, she will be sure that her predecessor will carry on the hard work. Acting Director John Megariotis announced that Joyce Malerba the current Chief of Operations will be stepping into the role of Assistant Director of Health Benefits. Mrs. Malerba introduced herself.

60 DAY WAIVER DISCUSSION

Mrs. Deacon gave an overview of Executive Order 172 (EO-172) which allowed for a waiver of the 60 day waiting period for enrollment into the SHBP for new hires. She stated she understands the PDC would like to continue this, however this would require a legislative piece. Committee Member Nowlan stated this EO expired on July 4, 2021 and wanted to be sure that anyone hired before July 4th would be included in this EO. Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney a motion to ask that the PDC communicate to Executive Bodies requesting the continuation of EO-172. Committee Member Lyons seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

SHBP PDC RESOLUTIONS

Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig read the following resolutions in their entirety:

SHBP PDC RESOLUTION 2021-3 RESOLUTION OF THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM PLAN DESIGN COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE RESOLUTIONS 2016-3, AND 2016-5; 2019-8 RELATED TO FORMULARY REIMBURSEMENT AND OUT OF NETWORK REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney made a motion to approve SHBP PDC Resolution 2021-3. Committee Member Nowlan seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Committee Member Lyons stated for the record he would approve all resolutions. He stated his concern is for the CSR for the State Workers and Employers must be established.

SHBP PDC RESOLUTION 2021-4 RESOLUTION OF THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM PLAN DESIGN COMMITTEE TO INCENTIVIZE MAIL ORDER PRESCRIPTIONS AND ADOPT \$0 COPAYS FOR GENERIC MAIL ORDER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney made a motion to approve SHBP PDC Resolution 2021-4. Committee Member Homes seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

SHBP PDC RESOLUTION 2021-5 RESOLUTION OF THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN DESIGN COMMITTEE TO ADOPT GENERIC SUBSTITUTION PREFERENCE OFFERED BY STATE PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER

Committee Member Homes made a motion to approve SHBP PDC Resolution 2021-5. Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

SHBP PDC RESOLUTION 2021-6 RESOLUTION OF THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM PLAN DESIGN COMMITTEE TO REDUCE THE RETIREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COPAYMENT FOR MAIL ORDER PREFERRED BRAND COPAYS

Co-Chair Zanyor made a motion to approve SHBP PDC Resolution 2021-6. Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

SHBP PDC RESOLUTION 2021-7 RESOLUTION OF THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM PLAN DESIGN COMMITTEE RELATED TO PILOT PROGRAM GRANTING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR SELECTING A TIERED NETWORK MEDICAL PLAN

Committee Member Little made a motion to approve SHBP PDC Resolution 2021-5. Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

SHBP PDC SUBGROUP UPDATES

Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig gave an update on the following subgroups:

RX SUBGROUP met the week of August 5.

The OON SUBGROUP met earlier in the week and will be meeting again in the next few weeks.

DENTAL SUBGROUP has met twice and will meet again once additional information is gathered.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further action to discuss, Committee Member Lyons made a motion to adjourn. Committee Member Nowlan seconded; all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary SHBP PDC