

State Health Benefits Program
Plan Design Committee
Open Session Minutes: June 23, 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, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 26, 2020. Updates regarding the Telephonic meeting was sent to the Secretary of State on April 19, 2021, and posted to the Division's website on June 11, 2021.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 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. Andrew Lawson then took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Roll Call

Committee Members:

Patrick Nowlan, AAUP – AFT (Co-Chair)

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

Dini Ajmani, Assistant Treasurer

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

Jenelle Blackmon, CWA Staff Representative, District 1

Absent:

David Krueger, NJ FMBA

Also Present:

Alison Keating, Deputy Attorney General

Christin Deacon Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Andrew Lawson Division of Pensions and Benefits

Debra Pelto Division on Pensions and Benefits

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

DIVISION UPDATE

Christin Deacon the Assistant Director for the Division of Pensions & Benefits provided an update regarding COVID-19 as it relates to the commercial population. Mrs. Deacon stated that from March 2, 2020 to the week of June 13th 2021 there have been over 730,000 COVID tests with approximately 97,000 being positive and approximately 73,000 antibody tests with 5,200 positive results. Inpatient admission continue to decrease, and claims activity related to COVID continue to be largely driven by vaccine and testing. She stated the claims spend (not testing costs) is \$244 million – this includes inpatient, outpatient, professional and lab testing.

Mrs. Deacon stated that there have been over one million non-COVID telemedicine claims since onset of the pandemic and about 90,000 COVID-related telemedicine claims.

Mrs. Deacon provided an update on Early Retiree, Active and Medicare Supplement (not Aetna) population on Horizon, advising that the current vaccination for two doses, Pfizer and Moderna, was 55,300 and single does administered were 2,200. Under Optum coverage, approximately 62,600 were full vaccinated including Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen. It was noted that not all collection sites were taking insurance information, so not all members are accounted for.

Mrs. Deacon stated that the SEHBP PDC issued a RPF for a vendor to do direct contracting regarding a resolution to create the Garden State Health Plan.

Committee member Zanyor asked if the COVID-related exemptions that were issued via Executive Order have an expiration or removal plan so that members were not caught off guard. Mrs. Deacon confirmed that the Division was in communication with the Treasurer's Office and Attorneys General for the state, and clarification of what is the State level or pursuant to the Cares Act at the Federal Level. She noted it was of concern, but did not have concrete guidance. She made a commitment to get back to the group and deliver something in writing on what is known. Commissioner Keyes-Maloney spoke as the AG on the call, advised that it does need research and should be formally referred to the AG. Related to the Executive Order expiration, Commissioner Nowlan asked if the 60-

day wait period would be applied to new hires who began working for the state on July 1st. Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney advised that there was a motion needed for the advice regarding hires who begin on July 1st falling under the exemption from waiting 60-days for health benefits enrollment, and potential impact the Executive Orders intersect with the plan design going forward. Commissioner Nowlan made the motion as stated by Co-Chair Keyes-Maloney, and Commissioner Zaynor seconded. The motion passed.

UPDATE: RX SUBGROUP

Christin Deacon read the resolution that came from the RX subgroup, stating the subgroup identified areas where a member who may have been receiving a medication through a prescription drug plan that subsequently went to an over-the-counter availability would find the change in cost impactful. It was found that there would be no cost to the state from an administrative standpoint to make a point of sale discount program available to members. In an effort to maintain affordability and accessibility, this would immediately make a substantial discount available to members on those over-the-counter medications.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion, it was seconded by Commissioner Nowlan. The motion passed, all in favor.

Discussion: Out of Network Provider:

Commissioner Zaynor opened a discussion regarding managing out-of-network spend. Commissioner Keyes-Maloney made a motion to form a subgroup to examine the issue and options. Commissioner Lyons seconded. The motion passed, all in favor. The floor was opened to all commissioner who were willing to serve. Commissioner Keyes-Maloney, Commissioner Ajmani, Commissioner Nowlan, and Commissioner Lyons all volunteered.

Adjournment

Having no further action to discuss, Commissioner Nowlan made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion; all voted in favor. The meeting concluded at 1:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary SHBP PDC