

**GATEWAY HEALTH GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2013
CARVER TOWN HALL**

Attendance:

Marion: Gary Carreiro, Chair; Anita Donovan

Carver: Pat Meagher

Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School District: Mark Morris

Mattapoisett: Brenda Herbeck

Old Colony Vocational Technical School District: Bruce Kaiser

GHG Treasurer: Debra Blanchette

EBS Foran: Edd Byrnes

Carreiro opened the meeting at 9:35am.

Review of Minutes

Blanchette motioned to amend the minutes to reflect the Carver Town Hall meeting place, instead of School Business building at 3 Carver Sq. Blvd.

Second by Kaiser

Approved

Motion by Kaiser to approve minutes of August 21, 2013 as amended

Second by Morris

Approved

Election of Secretary

Kaiser nominated Herbeck as Secretary for 2 years, as Antonellis resigned her position at ORRSD

Second by Morris

Motion to close nominations by Kaiser

Second by Morris

Approved

Herbeck elected Secretary by unanimous vote

Treasurer's Report

Blanchette distributed the September summary reports. Balance in all accounts totals over \$1 million. Group owes BCBS \$54,000 for the quarterly adjustment, but the adjustment with HP was up \$100,000 in August. Meagher remarked that this may be a trend as the last two quarterly adjustments with BCBS were down, but there were higher credits with HP. The healthy bank account balance is a result of timely stop loss receipts and positive quarterly credits. Warrants for August & September were approved.

Motion by Kaiser to accept the Treasurer's report

Second by Morris

Approved

FY 2013 Audit

Carreiro stated the audit fee would be the same as last year, and Bienvenue would draft a proposal.

Joint Purchasing Agreement Amendment

Byrnes reviewed what has been happening in Carver that prompted discussion on amending the Gateway Health Group's JPA. Carver's BOS hired a consultant to review its options on whether or not to remain a member of the Gateway Group. In the current Agreement it states that a member must notify the Board of termination by January 31st. The wording in the former Plymouth County agreement was the same, but currently in the JPAs of the Mayflower Group and the GIC, the wording changed to December 31st. Byrnes stated that he would need extra time to gather data, perform calculations, and determine the effect a member's termination would have on the rest of the group. He recommended that the Group modify its agreement to require a member to notify the Board of any termination no later than the December 1st just prior to the next anniversary date.

Meagher stated that a few in Carver think there could be enough of a saving from a reduction in premiums to build a new elementary school. Meagher stated that in the past he compared the Group to the Plymouth County Health Group, when plans were very similar, in order to justify that Carver should be a member of the Gateway Group. He stated that he felt that all the other JPGs, i.e. SMHG, Mayflower, GIC, and Cape Cod, have similar plans and rates. Longfellow Benefits are doing the analysis, and hopefully it will be determined that Carver is where it should be, in the Gateway Group.

Blanchette stated that she had a positive experience with Longfellow, and felt they would be fair in their analysis.

Byrnes stated he only had a copy of the draft of the Group's Articles of Organization. Blanchette stated that she may have a copy of a signed original JPA and would get to the Board as soon as possible.

Motion by Meagher to amend the JPA to reflect the December 1st notification of termination date; and to authorize Byrnes to consult the attorney to draft the amendment and to produce a new Joint Purchase Agreement for the Group.

Second by Kaiser
Approved

Byrnes Report

Byrnes stated that there is not enough claims information yet to make any "guestimate" on a rate increase. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Kaiser stated he is in 3-year contract negotiations with teachers and inquired about the pros and cons of a one plus one plan. Byrnes stated that anyone going from a family plan to a one-plus-one plan would see a savings, but anyone in a family plan would see huge rate increases.

Morris questioned if the Group had one carrier, i.e. BCBS, whether we would get better rates. Byrnes stated that we may be able to get a better deal, and that it may be something to take a look at again, but dealing with the various unions may be difficult.

Meagher wondered, now that Carver has adopted the GIC look-alike plans, what the savings is. Byrnes stated he would prepare a comparison for all entities for the next meeting.

Herbeck asked if retirement is a "qualifying event" for changing plans. Byrnes stated it was not, because the employee is not losing insurance, and could switch at open enrollment.

Old Business

Wellness Incentive

Meagher updated the Board on Wellness Incentive. There were 65 participants as of 9/30, which included 16 mammograms and 9 colonoscopies. The Board agreed to authorize Pam Stantin to initiate a broadcast phone call, regarding the wellness incentive, on Nov. 6th at 7pm. It was recommended that each entity make a broadcast email to remind employees to take advantage of the wellness incentive before the end of the calendar year.

Discussion ensued on renewing the Wellness Incentive Program. The Board agreed to have Meagher ask Pam Stantin to come to the next Board meeting to review the wellness program.

New Business

New Retiree Plan

Byrnes presented information on a new Medex II retiree plan to replace the current Medex III plan. Entities would not be able to apply for the Medicare D subsidies, but would realize a savings from the premium reduction, as the rate would be half of the current Medex III premium. Medical benefits would be the same, but instead of the current 20% of brand name drugs, etc., there would be fixed copays for drugs, similar to the HMO tiering. Byrnes stated that a 1/1 conversion date, to coordinate with the Managed Blue for Seniors Plan's renewal date, would not be possible this year. Both a 3/1 and 7/1 commencement date were discussed. Byrnes will have a side-by-side comparison ready for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Next meeting date was set for November 21st at 9:30 am in the Carver Town Hall.

Motion by Kaiser to adjourn at 10:40a.m.

Second by Morris

Approved