

**GATEWAY HEALTH GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2014  
CARVER TOWN HALL**

**Attendance:**

Marion: Gary Carreiro  
Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School District: Mark Morris, Vice-Chair  
Carver: Pat Meagher, Elaine Weston  
Lakeville: Rita Garbitt  
Mattapoisett: Brenda Herbeck  
Old Rochester Regional School District: Laura Kearns  
GHG Treasurer: Debra Blanchette  
EBS Foran: Edd Byrnes, Kevin Paicos

Absent:

Old Colony Vocational Technical School District: Bruce Kaiser

Carreiro opened the meeting at 9:45am

**Review of Minutes**

Motion to accept the minutes of April by Garbitt

Seconded by Meagher

Approved Unanimously

**Treasurer's Report**

Blanchette distributed the April bank summary reports and expense warrant. She noted that the Group received a substantial credit from Harvard/Pilgrim in the amount of \$172,993 in March, therefore, she paid just the difference for April's bill. The account balance reflects an early payment by so, the month ending balance would have been closer to 1.1M.

Motion by Kearns to accept the Treasurer's report

Seconded by Garbitt

Approved Unanimously

**Audit Update**

Byrnes will speak with MLM regarding the IBNR discrepancy they are questioning. He noted that he supplies the same information each year, so does not understand the delay in completing the audit. Byrnes will inform members on what was discussed in his conversation with them. Carreiro will contact Lynch and request a draft be submitted by the end of this FY. Blanchette received a bill for \$11,210, which included the \$4K for work supposedly done prior to Bienvenue's leaving the firm. Carreiro will check the contract, but Lynch verbally agreed that the Group would pay no more than the previous year's bill of \$9,750.

Motion by Meagher to authorize Carreiro and/or Blanchette to contact Bienvenue to start discussion about an audit for FY14.

Seconded by Garbitt

Approved Unanimously

**Byrnes Report**

Byrnes did not yet prepare a comparison by entity to the Mayflower Group, SMHG and the GIC, but will have them completed by the next meeting. He presented rate and benefits comparisons to the SE Reg. School District's IAC. He determined that, in joining the Mayflower Group, the District would realize a savings of \$289K, but would have to pay a \$1.1M buy-in. Meagher stated that Mayflower would allow a new member to increase rates to fund the buy-in over a 3-year period. It was recognized that employees would most likely not agree to raise rates for 3 years for a potential savings in the future.

## **EBS –Strategic Ideas**

Paicos presented several ideas for lowering health care costs.

The Group has already begun the process of switching seniors from BCBS's Medex III to their Medex II plan, which would not only be a premium savings, but also, a savings in the OPEB calculation. Byrnes will formulate the RFP, and in September will meet with every IAC to review the RFP and present the Medex III vs. Medex II proposal.

Other members of the Group may want to adopt the GIC look-alike plan, as Carver did for FY 14. Member units would need to adopt CH. 32b, s. 21 & s. 23. Carver saved about \$300K and provided a premium holiday for one month from the 25% plus savings requirement.

Another option would be to adopt consumer-driven plans, with HSA accounts. Plans would have lower premiums because of higher deductibles and copays. Employers could fund the HSA's from the savings as an incentive to switch.

Paicos and Byrnes recommended member units do an Eligibility Audit to determine if there are any subscribers who are not eligible for insurance. EBS would charge \$4,500 for such an audit, plus the cost of mailing, per member unit. Services would include: mailing packets requesting various documents, i.e. birth, death, marriage certificates, divorce decrees; scanning the documents; and then destroying them.

Paicos spoke about wellness and performance incentives that would reward participation for lifestyle changes that made a difference in someone's health condition, i.e. lower premiums or some type of financial incentive for participating in a smoking cessation program and continuing that lifestyle change.

## **Old Business**

### **New Business**

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting date was set for June 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Carver Town Hall.

Motion by Kearns to adjourn at 11:55am

Seconded by Garbitt

Approved Unanimously