

New Jersey School Employees' Health Benefits Commission
Open Session Minutes
March 25, 2024

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided through the annual notice of the schedule of regular meetings of the Commission filed with and prominently posted in the offices of the Secretary of State. The 2024 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 29, 2023, and Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 29, 2023. The annual meeting schedule was posted on the Division website on December 29, 2023.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 10:00 am, taking place at the Department of Pensions and Benefits in Trenton, New Jersey.

The text of Resolution A (Closed Session) and Resolution B (Executive Session) were read in their entirety in the event that the Commission desires, at any point in the meeting, to approve a motion to go into Closed or Executive session.

Kelly Fields took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Committee Members:

Michael Maillaro, Chair
Phillip Gennace
Danielle Schimmel
Julie Giordano Plotkin
Denise Graff Policastro
Sarah Favinger
Kelly Fields, Secretary

Also Present:

Becky Searles
Kate Miller
Donna Ruotola
Allison Myers
Jon Pipas
Joseph Tappe
Nick West

Absent:

Sonia Rivera-Perez
Carl Tanksley

Interim Chair:

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to nominate Michael Maillaro as the interim chair. Julie Giordano Plotkin seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to approve the May 22, 2023 meeting minutes, as well as make an adjustment. Julie Giordano Plotkin seconded the motion. Ms. Policastro has requested that the word daughter from case #2023052202 be changed to dependent, as well as strike personal information that is not needed. All voted in favor.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to approve the September 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Michael Maillaro seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Phillip Gennace had abstained.

AON Media Report Presentation:

Jon Pipas, Becky Searles, Joe Tappe, and Nick West presented the SEHBC mid-year reports. Becky Searles stated that 2025 plan year rates will be based on calendar year and plan year 2023. Joe Tappe stated for local education actives and retirees, there is an overall loss being projected. On the medical side, there is a combination of utilization of higher cost services. NJEHP plan enrollment has increased.

Optum Formulary Update:

Kate Miller provided a brief overview of the January 2024 formulary update. The changes went into effect on January 1st.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to go into Closed Session to hear the Closed Session appeals that contain protected health information. All voted in favor.

The following cases, due to HIPAA regulations, were heard in Closed Session:

Case #2024032501: Horizon presented this appeal. The member is covered under the New Jersey Educators Health Plan. This appeal is regarding reimbursement for an out-of-network provider, the member is requesting a gap exception. The member stated that there were no in-network options, Horizon went over the in-network options.

Danielle Schimmel made a motion to deny the appeal. Michael Maillaro seconded the motion. Danielle Schimmel, Philip Gennace, and Michael Maillaro voted yes. Julie Giordano Plotkin, Denise Graff Policastro, and Sarah Favinger voted no. Deadlock.

Sarah Favinger made a motion to approve the appeal. Denise Graff Policastro seconded the motion. Danielle Schimmel, Philip Gennace, and Michael Maillaro voted no. Julie Giordano Plotkin, Denise Graff Policastro, and Sarah Favinger voted yes. Deadlock.

The denial of this appeal stands.

Case #2024032502: The member is not present but has requested an OAL hearing. Michael Maillaro recused himself from this appeal. Julie Giordano Plotkin made a motion to have Denise Graff Policastro serve as the interim acting chair for this case. Philip Gennace seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to approve sending this appeal to the OAL. Danielle Schimmel requested advice from counsel first. Denise Graff Policastro made a motion to enter Executive Session. Philip Gennace seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Danielle Schimmel made a motion to apply for a hearing and request the Secretary to draft a final administrative determination. Philip Gennace seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Danielle Schimmel made a motion to return to Open Session for the settlement appeal. Michael Maillaro seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Case #2024032503: This is a settlement appeal. Julie Giordano Plotkin made a motion to approve the settlement agreement and have the Secretary sign on behalf of the Commission. Michael Maillaro seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Denise Graff Policastro stated she had received an email stating that Inspira for Aetna was being discontinued and asked for an update regarding that. Danielle Schimmel stated there is no update at this time. Ms. Schimmel also stated there will no longer be split contracts between Horizon and Aetna.

Michael Maillaro made a motion to adjourn. Julie Giordano Plotkin seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Fields
Acting Secretary
School Employees' Health
Benefits Commission