

School Employees' Health Benefits Program
Plan Design Committee
Open Session Minutes: September 28, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held telephonically.

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, 2019. Notice of the telephonic meeting was on July 8, 2020.

The meeting of the School Employees' Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.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 Ludwig took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Roll Call

Committee Members:

Julie Giordano Plotkin, NJEA

Kevin Kelleher, NJEA

John Megariotis, Director, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, Assistant Treasurer

David Ridolfino- Director Office of Management and Budget

Absent:

Donna Chiera, AFT/AFL-CIO

Also Present:

Christin Deacon, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Andrew Lawson, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Amy Chung, Deputy Attorney General

DIVISION REPORT

Christin Deacon of the Division of Pensions & Benefits provided an update on the COVID-19 testing. She stated that as of September 20, 2020 the SEHBP has covered 71,400 molecular diagnostic tests with approximately 6,300 positive results. There have been approximately 13,300 antibody tests, with 930 positive results.

Since the onset of the pandemic the SEHBP total claim spend for COVID-19 treatment has been \$28.4. In regards to the Medicare population, Mrs. Deacon stated the claims are across both the SHBP/SEHBP population. She stated the cost for COVID testing has been \$33,600 with 41,000 unique claimants and over 59,000 tests performed.

DISCUSSIN: WAIVER OF COST SHARE FOR COVID TESTING AND TREATMENT

Mrs. Deacon stated that Horizon has made the administrative decision for the fully insured book that they will continue to waive cost share for COVID related treatment, and are asking the self-insured clients to indicate if they wish to continue with the waiver of cost share through 12/31/2020. Chairperson Kelleher asked if telemedicine would be included in the waiver of cost. Mrs. Deacon confirmed, if the telemedicine treatment it related to COVID, then yes. Mrs. Deacon read resolution 2020-3 in its entirety.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The SEHBP PDC approves of the waiver of cost-share medically appropriate treatment of COVID-19
2. These provisions shall go into effect immediately and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020, unless otherwise altered or amended by the SEHBP PDC or Federal or State requirements.

Chairperson Kelleher made a motion to approve SEHBP PDC Resolution 2020-3. Committee Member Keyes-Maloney seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

DPCMH SANITAS PRESENTATION

Binsy Francis, of Horizon introduced Dr. Andrew Granus from Sanitas, who provided a background of Sanitas. Dr. Granus stated that there are three locations in New Jersey: Union City, Belleville and Elizabeth. He stated that there are approximately 40,000 members close to the three locations, and out of the 40,000 members 71% of these members have not had wellness visits in the past 12 months.

Dr. Granus stated that two of the locations are in hospitals. He stated that Sanitas is not an Emergency Room, but is capable of performing services found in an ER, for example IV fluids for a child. He stated that the benefit of being located in a hospital is that a patient can easily be transferred into the hospital if necessary.

Kevin Kelleher asked if Horizon is bringing Sanitas for approval as a third provider under the DCPMH program. Mrs. Deacon stated that this was a presentation only. She stated that the original resolution was not specific to the two current DCPMH providers. Committee member Ridolfino asked if the need for a third provider was due to geographical needs, or due to the other providers meeting the maximum capacity of patients. Mrs. Deacon confirmed it was due to geographical needs.

PRESENTATION: MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT vs MEDICARE ADVANTAGE POPULATION

Mrs. Deacon stated that a small number of members have opted out of the Medicare Advantage (MA) plan. Sixteen percent of the SEHBP population have elected to stay in NJDirect 1525, she stated that in 2018 there were 180 members in this plan, in 2019 there were 1,900 members. She stated that the utilization of out-of-network services in this plan has gone up as well. Chairperson Kelleher asked if this trend was a result of not having a control mechanism over the spend. Mrs. Deacon confirmed, the MA plans are more managed, where the supplemental plans are unmanaged from the healthcare spend and outcome perspective.

Chairperson Kelleher asked if the supplemental plans were eliminated it could potentially save the State and its members approximately \$34 million. Chairperson Kelleher asked what the change to the rates would be. Mrs Deacon stated she would ask Aon to provide the analytics on this change.

P.L. 2020 CHAPTER 44- GARDEN STATE PLAN

Committee member Keyes-Maloney made a motion to create a subgroup to work on the NJ Garden State Plan as, outlined in P.L. 2020 Ch. 44. Chairperson Kelleher seconded the motion; all voted in favor. The Committee determined the following members would sit on the Subgroup: Kevin Kelleher, Julie Giordano-Plotkin and John Megariotis.

Adjournment

Having no further matters to discuss, Committee member Keyes-Maloney made a motion to adjourn, Committee member Megariotis seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:20am

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary SEHBP PDC