

**State Health Benefits Program**  
**Plan Design Committee**  
**Open Session Minutes: January 26, 2022 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 on December 10, 2021, and the Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 15, 2021. Updates regarding the Telephonic meeting was sent to the Secretary of State and posted to the Division's website on January 13, 2022.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 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. Acting Secretary Ludwig then took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call**

**Committee Members:**

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

**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

**Patrick Nowlan**, AAUP – AFT (Co-Chair)

**Jenelle Blackman**, CWA

**David Krueger**, NJ FMBA

**Andrea Spalla**

**Other Staff:**

**Alison Keating**, Deputy Attorney General

**Joyce Malerba**, Division of Pensions and Benefits

**Nicole Ludwig**, Division of Pensions and Benefits  
**Debra Pelto**, Division on Pensions and Benefits  
**Binsy Francis**, Horizon

### **MEETING MINUTES**

A copy of the meeting minutes for the April 2021, June 2021, September 2021, and October 2021 meetings were provided to Committee Members prior to the meeting. Committee Member Lyons made a motion to table a vote until committee members have the chance to review them. Committee Member Nowlan seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

### **DIVISION UPDATE**

OptumRX advised that they will be covering the cost of the over-the-counter (OTC) at-home COVID-19 test kits for active and non-medicare eligible members of the SHBP and SEHBP, up to 8 tests per person per calendar month. This will comply with the federal administrative directive requiring health plans and insurers to provide coverage for OTC at-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests. These tests are FDA approved or EUA cleared, including tests obtained without a health care provider's order, prescription or authorization.

Members are encouraged to use OptumRX in-network pharmacies to avoid reimbursement delays or added costs when using out-of-network vendors. Eligible members can go to a pharmacy, store or online to purchase the OTC in-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests authorized by the FDA. OptumRX is currently working with large pharmacies to be added to the network, and will update this on their website when available.

### **HORIZON UPDATE**

Binsy Francis of Horizon gave a presentation on COVID-19 Surveillance testing, meaning testing that is being done for travel, residency requirements, and attendance at school or general workplace safety, anything that is not for the purposes or intended for the diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19. Any claim that is coded for surveillance testing will be denied. Anyone who is testing due to COVID symptoms or exposure to someone with COVID symptoms will continue to be covered.

### **HMS PRESENTATION**

Debra Pelto from the Division of Pensions and Benefits gave a presentation regarding HMS. She advised that claims for Horizon are sent to HMS daily (except Sunday) and, if selected, go through a clinical audit concept review. The claim would be pended, and HMS would reach out to the provider or facility. When their information is reviewed a determination can be made on how to move forward with the claim.

### **POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS**

Joyce Malerba, Assistant Director of Health Benefits Operations, Policy and Planning for the Division of Pensions and Benefits, spoke regarding the contracts due to expire at the end of 2022. These included the dental RFP, the Medicare Advantage RFP and the commercial RFP. NJDPB is working with the Division of Purchase and Property to review which contracts will be procured, what the timeline would be to procure the contracts, and in what order they would be procured. It was determined that the dental subgroup members and referenced-based subgroup members would be contacted to discuss potential Plan Design, and the stakeholders and RX subgroup already had a meeting scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further action to discuss, Committee Member Lyons made a motion to adjourn. Committee Member Little seconded the motion; all voted in favor. The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Ludwig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Ludwig  
Acting Secretary SHBP PDC