

New Jersey State Health Benefits Commission
Open Session Minutes
May 8, 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 to the Division website on December 29, 2023.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at the Division of Pensions and Benefits in Trenton, NJ.

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:

Sonia Rivera-Perez, Chair
Philip Gennance
Alison Chris Meyers
Dudley Burdge
Jennifer Higgins
Kelly Fields, Secretary

Also Present:

Timothy O'Shea
Vindi Francis
Joyce Malerba
Susan Flynn
Hall Schamble
Kate Miller
Alison Keating

Absent:

Danielle Schimmel

Before getting started on the Ethics training, Philip Gennace made a motion to enter Closed Session. Sonia Rivera-Perez seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

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

Case #2024050801: This appeal had previously been tabled at the March commission meeting due to the Division not having a full quorum. The member retired on an ordinary disability on August 1, 1999. The member had been receiving the full reimbursement in their pension check for 25 years. After an audit was completed in May of 2023, it was determined that the member was not eligible for any of the reimbursement. The member would no longer receive the reimbursement as of January 1, 2024. The union contract for the member did not have any language stating that a reimbursement would be provided.

Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to enter Executive Session. Philip Gennace seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return to Closed Session, Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to deny the appeal. Dudley Burdge seconded the motion. Sonia Rivera-Perez, Philip Gennace, and Allison Chris Meyers voted yes. Dudley Burdge and Jennifer Higgins voted no. With a total vote of 3-2, the appeal was denied.

Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to return to Open Session. Jennifer Higgins seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon entering Open Session, Jennifer Higgins made a motion to approve the December 13, 2024 meeting minutes. Dudley Burdge seconded the motion. Sonia Rivera-Perez and Allison Chris Meyers abstained. All voted in favor.

Dudley Burdge made a motion to approve the January 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Philip Gennace seconded the motion. Sonia Rivera-Perez abstained. All voted in favor.

At this time, Susan Flynn had presented the Ethics Training to the Committee Members.

Case #2024050802: The member stated that they received a letter stating that after an audit was done, the member was no longer eligible for Medicare B Reimbursement.

Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to enter Executive Session. Jennifer Higgins seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session; Sonia Rivera-Perez clarified to the member that Public Law 1996, Chapter 8 states that any Part B Reimbursement provided will be based on the contract that is applicable to the member when they attained 25 years. The contract in effect when the member attained 25 years does not currently have any language indicating a reimbursement amount.

Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to deny the appeal. Philip Gennace seconded the motion. Sonia Rivera-Perez, Philip Gennace, and Allison Chris Meyers voted yes. Jennifer Higgins and Dudley Burdge voted no. Due to a vote of 3-2, the appeal is denied.

Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to return to Open Session. Dudley Burdge seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Dudley Burdge requested a five-minute break.

Specialty Pharmacy Update:

Binsy Francis and Tim O'Shea presented the Specialty Pharmacy update. They touched base on medical drugs, high-level spending trend, management program, what is being done to manage medical injectable drugs, and some of the things that will be forthcoming.

Dudley Burdge suggested hearing from Aetna about how they do the medical pharmacy.

Optum Formulary Update:

Kate Miller and Bill Buckwich presented the Optum Formulary update. The standard formulary changes will be going into place on July 1st.

Division Update:

Joyce Malerba presented the Division update. Ms. Malerba stated that the final open enrollment count for the Special Open Enrollment will be sent out, as well as the local government in and out.

Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to return to Executive Session for the contractual updates. Jennifer Higgins seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Sonia Rivera-Perez made a motion to adjourn. Dudley Burdge seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Fields
Acting Secretary
State Health Benefits Commission