

State Health Benefits Commission
Open Session Minutes
May 11th, 2022

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 2022 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 10, 2021, and Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 15, 2021. Updates regarding the telephonic meeting were sent to the Secretary of State, the Star Ledger, the Trenton Times and posted to the division's website on April 21, 2022.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 10 am. Due to health and safety concerns for the public regarding COVID-19, the meeting of May 11, 2021, was not be held in-person and instead be conducted via teleconference.

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.

Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig led the pledge of allegiance. Acting Secretary Ludwig took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Commissioners:

Susanne Culliton, representing State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio

Gail Simon, representing Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance Marlene Caride

Deirdre Webster Cobb

Jennifer Hagen

Dudley Burdge, Representative for Local Government Employees

Also Present:

Alison Keating, Deputy Attorney General

Theresa Williams, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Joyce Malerba, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Debra Pelto, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Meghan Dunfee, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Donna Ruotola, Horizon

Dr. Lin, Horizon

Binsy Francis, Horizon

Steve White, Optum RX

Adam Demarzo, Optum RX

Kate Miller, Optum RX

TABLED APPEALS

Acting Secretary Ludwig advised that there were tabled appeals from previous commissions. Commissioner Hagen made a motion to move to closed session. Commissioner Burdge seconded. All voted in favor.

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

Case #2022051101: This closed session appeal was regarding an appeal for the medication Quinacrine. The reason for tabling was to allow time for Kate Miller, the clinical consultation with Optum RX to do an outreach to member's doctor in regards to the non-FDA approved compounding medication.

According to a letter from the member's physician, the member is treating discoid lupus erythematosus of the scalp, and had used Quinacrine in the past successfully when it was commercially available in the United States. Member has tried numerous alternatives and has been unsuccessful in achieving remission. Kate Miller spoke with the member's physician on March 10th and FDA approved alternatives that are covered in the formulary were discussed. Options included Mycophenolate, Systemic Steroids, Retinoids and Dapsone. Member spoke and explained the only drug that works is Quinacrine. Allows member to get less scalp injections and less hair shed. Member is paying \$1,700 copay for a 30 day supply when getting this drug on her own. This rate is the RAP enhanced method solution that Optum has in place so that if a product is not covered by the plan, the claim pays at a discounted rate.

Commissioner Culliton made a motion to move to Executive Session. Commissioner Burdge seconded. All voted in favor. The motion was accepted.

Upon return from Executive Session Commissioner Culliton made a motion to deny members request for the reasons set forth in Optum's letter that the underlying compounding drug is non-FDA approved and, therefore, we can't authorize its use. Commissioner Simon seconded. All voted in favor.

Case #2022051102:

Worker compensation case. Commissioner Culliton made a motion to accept the settlement proposal as presented. Commissioner Simon seconded. All voted in favor.

Case #2022051103:

Worker compensation case. Commissioner Culliton made a motion to accept the settlement as proposed by Equian in this matter and accept the settlement proposal as presented by Equian. Commissioner Higgins seconded. All voted in favor.

Case # 2022051104:

Worker compensation case. Commissioner Culliton made the motion. Jennifer Higgins seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Burdge seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Ludwig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary
State Health Benefits Commission