

**School Employees' Health Benefits Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 23, 2018; 10:00 AM**

Adequate notice of this meeting was 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 annual meeting notice was mailed to the Secretary of State, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 20, 2017.

The meeting of the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held at the Division of Pensions and Benefits, 50 West State Street in Trenton.

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 Palladino took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call**

**Dan Goldman**, NJEA

**Wendell Steinhauer**, NJEA

**Thomas Gallagher**, representing Acting Commissioner of the Dept. of Banking and Insurance, Marlene Caride

**Sonia Rivera-Perez**, representing State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio

**Cynthia Jahn**, NJ School Boards Association (via telephone)

**Absent:**

**Carmen Gonzalez-Gannon**, NJEA

**Also Present:**

**Danielle Schimmel**, Deputy Attorney General

**Mark Cipriano**, Division of Pensions and Benefits

**Joseph Palladino**, Division of Pensions and Benefits

**Nikki Ludwig**, Division of Pensions and Benefits

**Daniel Halevy**, Horizon

**Donna Ruotola**, Horizon

## **Issues:**

Commissioner Steinhauer moved to appoint Commissioner Gallagher interim chair. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

## **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to approve the Open and Executive Session minutes from August 2017, September 2017, November 2017, and January 2018 SEHBC meetings with a correction of a typographical error on the November 2017 minutes. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion. The motion passed 4:0:1 as to August and September 2017 (Commissioner Goldman abstained) and all voted in favor as to November and January.

## **Member Appeals**

**Case #05231801 (NJDPB Appeal)** – This member requested a change in dental plans from the MetLife DPO to the Aetna DEP within 12 months of enrolling in the DPO. The member's request was denied noting that the only exception would be if the plan premium changed within that 12 month period. The member asserted that the premium did change, however the premium change was for another dental plan. Furthermore, as a retiree, the member could change dental plans once that 12 month period had elapsed, and would not need to wait for open enrollment.

Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to deny the appeal, Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Case #05231802 (NJDPB Appeal)** - This matter had been tabled at a previous meeting. The member appealed the denial of the request to enroll in retired dental coverage. The member had been without dental coverage for the two years since retirement and did not apply for coverage within the required time.

Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to approve the member's request to enroll in the retiree dental program. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion. The motion failed 2:3 (Nay: Commissioners Gallagher, Rivera-Perez, and Jahn)

Commissioner Jahn made a motion to deny the appeal. Commissioner Rivera-Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed 3:2 (Nay: Commissioners Goldman and Steinhauer)

## **Workers Compensation**

**Case #05231803, #05231804, #05231805, #05231806, #05231807** - Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to approve the settlement proposals en-bloc. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Steinhauer made motion to go into Closed Session to hear a member appeal. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

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

## **Member Appeals**

**Case #05231808 (Horizon Appeal) (member present)** – This member appealed the denial of a pre-authorization for surgery for the removal and re-implantation of breast implants. Ms. Ruotola of Horizon explained that Horizon denied the procedure based on the plan provisions which state that cosmetic surgery, or services for complications resulting from cosmetic surgery are not covered except for reconstruction surgery following a mastectomy, or when medically necessary to correct a damage caused by an accident, injury, therapeutic surgery, or to correct a congenital defect. Horizon's denial was upheld by the IRO.

Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to deny the appeal, Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Steinhauer then made a motion to return to Open Session. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

## **Pending Litigation**

After returning to Open Session, Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to go into Executive Session., Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor

## **Remarks from the Commissioners**

Commissioner Jahn asked if there had been any movement in filling vacancies. The Commissioners discussed that three resumes needed to be submitted for the chair position, and that names had been submitted for other vacancies.

Commissioner Goldman requested data on loss ratios, how they might be banded and how that could affect rates, along with options at looking into tiered rates.

Commissioner Goldman also requested that at a future meeting a representative from each of the providers present information on their policies and procedures for sensitivity training for sexual orientation, discrimination, and other issues of diversity.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Steinhauer made motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 am. Commissioner Goldman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Palladino

Acting Secretary, School Employees' Health Benefits Commission