

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2017

9:30 AM

Wilbraham Town Hall

Wilbraham, MA

Meeting Minutes

Board Members and Alternates present:

Arlene Miller, Chair

Marie Angelides

Nick Breault

Richard Patullo

Anna Bishop

Howard Barber

Town of Longmeadow

Town of Longmeadow

Town of Wilbraham

Town of Hampden

Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Coop. (LPVEC)

Hampden-Wilbraham RSD

Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk

Lyn Fioravanti

Christina Gagnon

Christi Brothers

Corinne Tranghese

Erica Gelinas

Jocelyn Sanchez

Herta Dane

Patricia Gordon

Anna Kober

William Kober

Mary Glover

Lisa Sternberg

Linda Loiselle

Sandra Stankiewicz

Heidi Fountain

Jonathan Payson

Sandra Ruiz

Fred Winer

Carol Cormier

Karen Carpenter

SVRHT Treasurer

SVRHT Wellness Coordinator

Hampden Wilbraham RSD

Hampden Wilbraham RSD

Town of East Longmeadow

Town of Longmeadow

Town of Longmeadow

Town of Wilbraham

Wilbraham - retiree

Hampden-Wilbraham RSD – retiree

Hampden-Wilbraham RSD – retiree

Hampden-Wilbraham RSD – retiree

Hampden-Wilbraham RSD - retiree

Abacus Health Solutions

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)

Health New England (HNE)

Tufts Health Plan – Senior products

Group Benefits Strategies

Group Benefits Strategies

Arlene Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

Approval of the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting:

Dick Patullo moved to approve the September 12, 2017 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion

Arlene Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote with 4 abstentions.

Wellness Program Report:

Lyn Fioravanti, Wellness Consultant, distributed and reviewed reports on the participation in the SVRHT Wellness Programs and the FY18 budget. She said SVRHT received a bronze award from the Worksite Wellness Council of MA. She said she submitted the press release to Reminder Publications.

Ms. Fioravanti reviewed the ending FY16 wellness budget and said there was an unused balance of \$4,827.

Ms. Fioravanti reviewed year-to-date program participation and reviewed the current programs and FY18 budget. In an effort to encourage a culture of wellness, she said one of the challenges this year is going to be “Name the Wellness Program”, which will include submitting ideas to make your site a healthier workplace. Ms. Fioravanti reported year-to-date expenses of 20% of the budget, a total dollar amount of \$14,469.

Ms. Fioravanti said she attended a webinar by Omada on its behavior modification program for pre-diabetics. She said other Joint Purchase Group wellness coordinators attended. She said that Chris Nunnally of Group Benefits Strategies had set up the webinar.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Paul Pasterczyk distributed and reviewed the August 2017 financial report and a preliminary September report. He reported an Unreserved Fund Balance at the end of August of \$4,023,492 and said the fund balance target was \$2.9 million. He said reinsurance reimbursements of approximately \$433K were received. Mr. Pasterczyk reviewed the list of Certificates of Deposits and said the ending balance was \$6,834,730. Mr. Pasterczyk said the FY17 financial audit is in progress.

Mr. Pasterczyk said a regional dispatch group contacted him and asked about the possibility of entrance into SVRHT. He said there are approximately 25 employees, but noted they may not be ready for another year or two. He said to contact him for the names of the groups.

Carol Cormier said some joint purchase groups allow a small governmental unit to gain entrance into the group through a larger unit that would act as its sponsor.

Dick Patullo made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report.

Motion

Tom Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

GBS Reports:

Funding Rate Analysis (FRA) report - Carol Cormier reviewed the FY18 FRA report with data through August 2017 and said the year-end expense-to-funding ratio was 81.5%. She said the funding surplus on the *paid claims basis* report was \$815,841.

Reinsurance reports – Karen Carpenter said there were nine claimants in the *FY17 policy period* who have exceeded the specific deductible of \$175K. She said these claims total \$2,949,781 with excess claims of \$1,199,781. She said that the Aggregating Specific Deductible has been met and \$896,265 has been reimbursed. She said the outstanding reimbursement due is \$150,515.

Diabetes Care Rewards program report and proposed enhancements:

Linda Loiselle reported 58% out of the 210 eligible members of CCMHG are participating in the diabetes program, and of that 210, or 55% of members, are meeting all five of the care requirements. She reported \$29,243 in waived copays and 1,255 scripts ordered. She said the estimated program savings for the year ending August 31st was \$127,466.

Linda Loiselle reviewed the program enhancements to include a new blood glucose monitor, Accu-Chek® Guide, which would electronically monitor the participants glucose levels. She said the monitor is capable of transferring the numbers to the member's computer and the member can also bring the record of the readings to his/her physician. She said the participant will also be assigned to the Abacus Care Team members.

Ms. Loiselle said the results are recorded and an analysis of the readings can pinpoint where a member may be having issues that could be addressed. She gave an example of a member results before and after analysis and a diabetes health action plan developed for that member. In addition, Ms. Loiselle said a clinical pharmacist has been hired to provide medication therapy when necessary.

Ms. Loiselle said Abacus is working with a new company to obtain a lower costs for the diabetes test strips which will provide SVRHT with additional savings. She said Abacus will need claims data from the health plans and updating of the necessary confidentiality agreements.

In response to a question, Ms. Loiselle said she would find out if the meter will work with insulin pumps.

Arlene Miller suggested hearing about other program options before making a decision.

Linda Loiselle reviewed the myMedicationAdvisor® report.

CY18 Senior plan renewals:

Carol Cormier said SVRHT has fully insured and self-funded senior plans. She said the Medex 2 plan is self-funded for the medical portion of the plan and the prescription (Rx) portion is insured Medicare Part D plan (PDP). She said HNE MedPlus is self-funded for medical and Rx. She reviewed the projections of the self-funded plans first.

Ms. Cormier said she is recommending level funding the HNE MedPlus plan at \$378 based on the plan performance to date this calendar year. She said the rate includes the HNE administrative fee and estimated GBS management fee.

Ms. Cormier reviewed the Medex 2 plan medical and prescription portions of the rate and said she is recommending level funding this rate as well. She said the formulary changes BCBS made resulted in a low PDP premium. Ms. Cormier also said it would be a good idea to send out the formulary change information to the senior plan members early.

Ms. Cormier reviewed the BCBS fully insured plans and said the Managed Blue for Seniors plan is increasing 2% to \$353.61. She said the Medicare HMO blue plan is increasing 4% to \$371.10.

Fred Winer reviewed the Tufts senior plan renewals and said the Tufts Medicare HMO plan was rated 5 stars and #1 in the country. Mr. Winer said the Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO plan premium is increasing 6.1% to \$314.00. He said the Tufts Medicare Preferred Supplement plan rate is increasing 2.5% to \$364.00. Mr. Winer said the contributing factors for the increase of the HMO rate is the addition of the \$10.28 ppm insurer fee and a reduction in CMS reimbursements of \$3.50.

Anna Bishop made a motion to approve level funding the Medex and HNE Medwrap plan and to accept the insured plan rates as presented.

Motion

Dick Patullo seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mission Statement Proposal:

Carol Cormier said it was suggested at the last meeting that SVRHT should have a Mission Statement. Ms. Cormier referred to a sample statement and said it could work well for all Joint Purchase Groups.

The Board reviewed the exhibit and there was a discussion.

Arlene Miller asked Ms. Cormier to tailor it to the SVRHT.

Nick Breault said he favors the sample statement, but asked to have the final version reviewed at the next meeting as the second reading.

Carol Cormier suggested putting together a 3-year strategic plan.

Reinsurance options going forward:

Carol Cormier said the Mass. Municipal Reinsurance Arrangement (MMRA), a reinsurance captive, currently consists of CCMHG, WSHG and MNHG. She said individual claims over \$800K are fully insured, and claims between \$300K and \$800K are self-funded, i.e. reimbursed out of the captive pool. Ms. Cormier said GBS is going to hold a forum on November 28th to explain how the MMRA is working and to talk about possibly adding new groups to the pool. She said GBS is inviting all of its clients including SVRHT to attend and said one of the other topics will be carving out prescription drugs. She said there is good evidence of savings by doing so, but noted there is better savings through the international drug program if everyone utilizes it.

Cost containment options:

Carol Cormier said she will add the Group Benefits Strategies High Performance Health Plan program to the list of cost containment options. She reviewed the list and said Chris Nunnally from GBS is spearheading this project which will enhance the health plans. Ms. Cormier said GBS will be putting together a recommendation for SVRHT to consider.

Anna Bishop said she would like to see a telehealth program added to the BCBS plans.

Ms. Cormier said telehealth is part of the high performance health plan program.

Ms. Cormier said she would add the topic to the next agenda.

In response to a question about the HSA eligible High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) design, Carol Cormier gave an overview of the plan design CCMHG adopted and said the estimated savings is expected to be between 17% and 21%. She said if the Board would like, she could ask someone to come in and speak on the topic.

The Board indicated it is not ready to take this topic on at this time.

Health Plan reports:

Blue Cross Blue Shield – Sandra Stankiewicz encouraged sending the formulary change brochure out to the seniors with their open enrollment materials. She said the changes will be included in the yearly notice, but said a separate notice would not be mailed. Ms. Stankiewicz said to let Jonathan Payson know how many copies are needed. She said there will be extra call support at CVS Caremark to answer questions about the changes.

Ms. Stankiewicz introduced Heidi Fountain and said she will be the new SVRHT BCBSMA Account Executive.

There were no updates from Tufts Health Plan and Health New England.

Other Business:

The next meeting was scheduled on November 21, 2017 at 9:30 AM at the Wilbraham Town Hall, Wilbraham, MA.

There was no other business.

Dick Patullo made a motion to adjourn.

Motion

Anna Bishop seconded the motion.

Arlene Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter
Group Benefits Strategies*