

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Thursday January 18, 2024 9:30 AM
[By Remote Participation](#)

Meeting Minutes

Board Members and Alternates present:

Arlene Miller, Chair	Town of Longmeadow
Dick Patullo	Town of Hampden
Joan Iwanicki	Town of East Longmeadow
Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
Aaron Osborne	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Anna Bishop	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.

Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk	SVRHT Treasurer
Marcy Morrison	SVRHT Wellness Coordinator
Mark Gold	Town of Longmeadow
Jocelyn Sanchez	Town of Longmeadow
Claire Kawalec	Town of Longmeadow
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Karen Fink	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.
Heidi Fountain	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Judy Moniz	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Sandra Ruiz	Health New England
Alysha Beaudry	Abacus Health Solutions
Mark Nicholson	Point 32 Health
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Chris Collins	CanaRx
Jim Riley	CanaRx
Joseph Anderson	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)
Karen Quinlivan	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)

Arlene Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. Roll call was taken with voting attendees listed as:

Arlene Miller, Chair	Town of Longmeadow
Dick Patullo	Town of Hampden
Joan Iwanicki	Town of East Longmeadow
Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
Aaron Osborne	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Anna Bishop	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.

Approval of the minutes of the November 14th, 2023 meeting:

Joan Iwanicki moved approval of the minutes of the November 14th, 2023 meeting as presented with noted corrections.

Motion

meeting

Anna Bishop seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote on the motion:

Arlene Miller	Yes
Dick Patullo	Yes
Joan Iwanicki	Yes
Barbara Hancock	Yes
Aaron Osborne	Yes
Anna Bishop	Yes

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Paul Pasterczyk presented his December 2023 financial reports (unaudited figures). The balance at the beginning of the month was \$14 million. Nothing extraordinary to note at the end of a quarter. Interest alone for CD's was over \$52,000. Overall, there are \$8.4 million in CD's which produce a tremendous amount of interest every month. The monthly deposit for BCBS was \$1,300,000 and claims for Health New England were \$1.35 million for what was a five week period for December, so they are remaining relatively low. Trial balance shows that there was a \$1.7 million surplus at the end of December. The trust is doing well and showing a positive sign for the first six months. Target balance of 12% of the prior 12 months worth of claims of \$3.36 million compared to the unreserved fund balance of \$8.6 million, leaves an excess of \$5.1 million. Dan Haynes is virtually done with the FY23 audit. He will likely be available at the next meeting.

GBS reports:

Joe Anderson reviewed the FY24 Funding Rate Analysis (FRA) report as of December 2023. Mr. Anderson said the expense to funding ratio through December was 93.6% resulting in a funding surplus of \$1,079,980. Every account is running below 100% except for the Tufts EPO and that is a very small account. If there is a single chronic claimant that will drive the number up and that is what is happening there. The renewal calculation should come in pretty well against the backdrop of trend that has gone up substantially with the carriers. Blended trend has gone up 1.7% year over year. That is impacting groups across the state that might not have good claims experience. The renewal is in for Blue Cross and HNE is anticipated shortly. Hopefully the group will fare well considering the strong trust.

Karen Quinlivan reviewed the FY23 reinsurance reports. She said with data through December, there were 6 claimants with \$624,713.34 in claims above the \$250K deductible. The \$150K Aggregating Specific Deductible has been met. Total reimbursements to date were \$474,916.14 and there is an overpayment credit of \$202.80. There were 19 claimants with claims between \$125K and \$250K totaling \$3,543,181.93. The same report for FY24 through December had 2 claimants with \$182,987.88 in claims above the \$250K deductible. There has been no reimbursements and the outstanding amount due is \$16,676.36. There were 5 claimants having claims between \$125K and \$250K totaling \$806,964.40.

Health plan and vendor reports:

Tufts – Fred Winer said that open enrollment went well and there were no problems to report in January. Everything ran very smoothly.

Mark Nicholson said that as part of the overall Harvard Pilgrim Tufts migration, The Tufts plans will move over to Harvard Pilgrim and their platform for July 1, 2024. HPHC is currently working on replicating all the benefits of the current Tufts plans so they will be ready on July 1.

Joe Anderson said the impact is roughly 50 employees, predominantly Longmeadow with 29 and about 11 for East Longmeadow. Those employees would essentially be mapped over to the new plans.

Blue Cross – Heidi Fountain said that trend is coming from new to market biologics, gene therapy and weight loss drugs. GLP1 drugs are what are really driving the kind of trend increases at this point. Blue Cross could have a pharmacy expert come and present if the group wants. Ms. Fountain reminded everyone that Blue Cross needs about 2 weeks turn around time from when the group confirms the renewal to prepare materials. Wilbraham already has something on the schedule for March 15th. That could be a tight turnaround. Lastly, the Well Connection benefit that is starting on February 1 will have a postcard mailing that can use account credits to cover the cost. The total cost came in at under \$600.

Joe Anderson supported the mailing.

Joan Iwanicki asked if a copy of any communication can be sent prior to it going out so the units are aware.

Heidi Fountain said that Blue Cross can provide advance notice.

Health New England – Sandra Ruiz said that she is working with Teladoc to make sure that all members receive a welcome kit regarding the benefit and how to access services. A memo waiving prior authorization for admissions from acute care hospitals to sub-acute care facilities was issued on a temporary basis from the Office of Executive Health and Human Services to address healthcare capacity. The memo is until April 1st. This is similar to what happened during COVID. Because Scantic is self-funded, the group will have to vote on whether to follow the memo.

Joan Iwanicki moved approval of the temporary state memo to approve prior approvals from acute to sub-acute hospitals from January 9th until April 1st.

Motion

Barbara Hancock seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote on the motion:

Arlene Miller	Yes
Dick Patullo	Yes
Joan Iwanicki	Yes
Barbara Hancock	Yes
Aaron Osborne	Yes
Anna Bishop	Yes

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

CanRx – Chris Collins said that things seem to be moving in the right direction. Recent news reports regarding Florida being granted permission to put together a wholesale importation program has nothing to do with individual importation the way it runs through CanRx. It would go through an Indian nation or a

SVRHT Board Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2024

municipal hospital. It drew an immediate reaction from the Canadian government which said no it will not allow wholesale exportation of medications out of the country.

Jim Riley said that as of December the total savings were \$283,580.22. The monthly average was \$23,631.69. The average employee savings is \$107.13. That information will try to be incorporated in promotional material. Marketing will also focus more on a mail order program as opposed to an international program to address concerns people have had in the past.

Anna Bishop indicated the link on the Scantic website to CanaRx is not working.

Karen Quinlivan said she would send the link to Jim to be updated on the website.

Wellness Program report:

Marcy Morrison was finally able to join by phone but was unable to see her report to present. Her report was in the meeting packet and Arlene Miller said the group would look forward to her report the following month.

Other business:

There was no other business.

The Chair, Arlene Miller, set the next Board meeting for Wednesday February 14th, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.

*Minutes prepared by Karen Quinlivan
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.*