

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 2018

9:30 AM

Wilbraham Town Hall

Wilbraham, MA

Meeting Minutes

Board Members and Alternates present:

Arlene Miller, Chair
Marie Angelides
Cheryl Wiblyi
Anna Bishop
Tom Sullivan
Howie Barber
Sara Menard

Town of Longmeadow
Town of Longmeadow
Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Coop. (LPVEC)
Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Coop. (LPVEC)
Town of Wilbraham
Hampden-Wilbraham RSD
Town of East Longmeadow

Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk
Christina Gagnon
Christi Brothers
Corinne Tranhese
Jocelyn Sanchez
Deb Gormley
Sandra Ruiz
Heidi Fountain
Carol Cormier

SVRHT Treasurer
Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Town of East Longmeadow
Town of Longmeadow
Hampden Wilbraham RSD retiree
Health New England
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA
Group Benefits Strategies

Arlene Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

FY19 funding rates for active employee plans:

Arlene Miller reviewed the Board's approach to rate setting which she described as fair and reasonable. She said that she had sent some questions to Carol Cormier following the discussion about the FY19 rate projections at the Feb. 22 Board meeting. She said her questions were whether or not the projections and trend were local or across the board and if the projections reflect level of risk for groups that have wellness and disease management programs.

Carol Cormier said that the BCBSMA trend factors were the same for all the groups for which she consults regardless of location. She said HNE is a local plan, and the trend is likely to reflect local costs of care. She said that the SVRHT has had the wellness and diabetes management programs for a long time, so the impact of these programs would be seen in the two years of historical claims upon which the FY19 claims projections are based.

Carol Cormier said that at its last meeting the Boardmembers agreed that they did not wish to increase the rates for FY19 to the levels indicated by the carriers and/or by GBS. She said that she prepared three additional funding scenarios requested by the Board, and she reviewed them. She said in each case the Blue Care Elect PPO plan increase would be at 5% and the Tufts plans would be level-funding. Ms. Cormier said the following three scenarios of rate increases were requested: (1) 0% for Network Blue and 5% for HNE HMO; (2) 3% for Network Blue and 8% for HNE HMO; and (3) 5% for Network Blue and 10% for HNE HMO. For each scenario she showed the expected impact on the Trust Fund balance if the health plan and GBS projections were to turn out to be correct.

There was a discussion about each of the three scenarios and about prior years' projections and the fact that they were high compared to actual claims experience.

Tom Sullivan moved to go with a fourth scenario in which Network Blue rates would increase 2% and HNE rates would increase 7%.

Motion

Anna Bishop seconded the motion.

There was a discussion about the fund balance.

Arlene Miller asked for a vote on Mr. Sullivan's motion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business:

Arlene Miller said that Paul Pasterczyk would like to move the issue of participation in SVRHT by the new municipal entity, WestComm Dispatchers.

Mr. Pasterczyk said that he is confident that WestComm meets the legal definition of "district" and is therefore eligible to participate in Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust.

Arlene Miller asked Ms. Cormier to put this item on the next Board meeting agenda for a vote.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 21, 2018 at 9:30 AM at the Wilbraham Town Hall, Wilbraham, MA.

There was no other business.

Arlene Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.

*Prepared by Carol Cormier
Group Benefits Strategies*