

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 1:00 PM
Wilbraham Town Hall
Wilbraham, MA

Meeting Minutes

Board Members and Alternates present:

Dick Patullo, Acting Chair	Town of Hampden
Tom Sullivan	Town of Wilbraham
Sara Menard	Town of East Longmeadow
Howard Barber	Hampden-Wilbraham RSD
Cheryl Wiblyi (LPVEC)	Lower Pioneer Valley Education Collaborative

Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk	SVRHT Treasurer
Jocelyn Sanchez	Town of Longmeadow
Corinne Tranghese	Town of East Longmeadow
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Christi Brothers	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Herta Dane	Town of Wilbraham
Heidi Fountain	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Sandra Ruiz	Health New England (HNE)
Lisa Despres	Tufts Health Plan
Jeff Beane	MyTelemedicine
Carol Cormier	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)
Chris Nunnally	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)

Dick Patullo, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

Approval of the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting:

Howard Barber said that there were three typos in the draft minutes and noted each.

Tom Sullivan made a motion to approve the September 10, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected.

Motion

Howard Barber seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MyTelemedicine – Jeff Beane

Jeff Beane said that the utilization of the program is at 1.1%, which is lower than hoped for. He said he attended all flu clinics and enrolled about 40 people. He said that once per month he is going to send Benefits Administrators a co-branded email about the MyTelemedicine program which they can forward

to employees. He said that every other month he will send flyers for employees. Mr. Beane said that MyTelemedicine made some changes to the website to make it easier to use.

Mr. Beane said he looked into the member issue raised at the last SVRHT meeting. He said the MyTelemedicine consults are \$0 copay for SVRHT members. He invited the member to speak with him.

Senior Plan Rates for CY2020:

Carol Cormier suggested reviewing all of the fully insured Medicare plan rate proposals first.

Tufts Medicare Plan rates - Carol Cormier reviewed the CY20 fully insured Medicare plan rates provided by Tufts Health Plan. She said that “Tufts Medicare Prime Rx Plus” rate went up \$10 to \$327 per month. She said that the CY20 “Tufts Medicare Supplement PDP Plus” rate will stay the same as the current rate which is \$358 per month. She said that the rate proposal information indicated no benefits changes for either plan.

Ms. Despres, Tufts Health Plan, said she did not have anything to add.

BCBS fully insured Senior plan rates – Ms. Cormier reviewed the rate proposals for Managed Blue for Seniors. She said the rate will go from \$367 to \$374, a 1.9% increase. She said the Medicare HMO Blue rate will go up to \$395.26, a 3.2% increase over current.

Health New England fully insured Medicare plan – Ms. Cormier said that the HNE Medicare Freedom plan rate will decrease 10.4% to \$328.

Medex 2 with Blue Medicare RX EGWP – Ms. Cormier said this Employer Group Waiver Plan (EGWP) has a self-funded medical plan and a fully insured Medicare PDP for pharmacy coverage. She reviewed the BCBS and the GBS medical claims projections which were within 0.6% agreement. She reviewed the fully insured Blue Medicare Rx PDP rate, noting a 0.9% increase. Ms. Cormier recommended a CY20 Medex rate of \$378, which is 1.6% higher than the current rate.

Tom Sullivan moved approval of the *Medex +Blue Medicare Rx* rate of \$378, the *Managed Blue for Seniors* rate of \$374 and the *Medicare HMO Blue* rate of \$395.26.

Motion

Howard Barber seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Tom Sullivan moved to approve the CY20 monthly *HNE Medicare Secure Freedom* rate of \$328.

Motion

Howard Barber seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Howard Barber moved approval of the CY20 *Tufts Medicare Prime Rx Plus* rate of \$327 and the *Tufts Medicare Supplement PDP Plus* rate of \$358.

Motion

Cheryl Wiblyi seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

HNE MedPlus – currently fully self-funded.

Ms. Cormier said that the decisions about the HNE MedPlus plan are more complex. She called attention to the rating exhibit in the packet. Ms. Cormier said that at the last Board meeting Sandra Ruiz, HNE, informed the Board that the significant increase in MedPlus plan claims were primarily related to four members with serious illnesses using costly specialty medications. She said that Ms. Ruiz provided more non-confidential cost information on these claimants plus on a few others. Ms. Cormier said that, as

agreed by the Board, Gallagher Benefits Services (GBS) would seek bids for a Medicare PDP that could replace the current self-funded drug benefits without changes to the Rx plan design. She said that this would give SVRHT another option to look at. She said that Chris Nunnally, GBS, sought the quotes.

Mr. Nunnally reviewed the quotes he received saying that the Humana quote was the lowest and was offered through Retiree First which provides advocacy services for seniors using the plan. He said that the MedPlus with Humana PDP rate is lower than the MedPlus CY20 *status quo* rate.

Carol Cormier reviewed the HNE and the GBS rate projections for the *status quo* HNE MedPlus plan. She said that the projections ranged from a 38% increase (HNE's projection) and 30% (GBS's projection). Moving to an EGWP with the Humana PDP the rate increases projected were between 17% and 22%.

Ms. Cormier and Mr. Nunnally pointed out that HNE has a new Pharmacy Benefit Management contract with OptumRx and will be giving self-funded clients drug rebates, which they had not previously done.

Ms. Ruiz said that HNE estimates annual rebates on the MedPlus to be about \$277,000 and over \$800,000 overall including the plans for active employees.

Ms. Cormier noted that the current HNE MedPlus plan is also eligible for the Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS) which in the last year brought in about \$93,000. She said that if MedPlus were turned into an EGWP with a fully insured Medicare Part D Plan, it would not be eligible for the RDS.

Ms. Cormier said that taking the Rx rebates and the RDS into account, retaining the status quo for another year might be a reasonable thing to do. She said that HNE will be bringing a new senior plan to market for 2021.

Tom Sullivan said he recognizes that the HNE MedPlus rate must increase significantly but would like to see it done in increments.

Board members agreed with Mr. Sullivan and discussed rating for the *status quo* MedPlus plan.

Tom Sullivan moved to approve a rate of \$480 per month for the *HNE MedPlus* plan under its current arrangements, i.e. self-funded medical and Rx.

Motion

Howard Barber seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business:

Carol Cormier said that there is an Ethics Commission ruling that she will discuss with the Board at its next meeting on November 21st.

Dick Patullo said he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Howard Barber moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion

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

Acting Chair Dick Patullo adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

*Prepared by Carol Cormier
Gallagher Benefits Services*