

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 1:00 PM

Wilbraham Town Hall

Wilbraham, MA

Meeting Minutes

Board Members and Alternates present:

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

Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk	SVRHT Treasurer
Lyn Fioravanti	SVRHT Wellness Coordinator
Jocelyn Sanchez	Town of Longmeadow
Corinne Tranghese	Town of East Longmeadow
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Maura Ryan	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Patty Joyce	Abacus Health Solutions
Heidi Fountain	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Lisa Despres	Tufts Health Plan
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Carol Cormier	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)
Chris Nunnally	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)

Arlene Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Approval of the minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting:

Tom Sullivan made a motion to approve the October 1, 2019 meeting minutes.

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

Wellness program report:

Lyn Fioravanti reviewed her report that included year-to-date participation in programs, current happenings, information sent out, Weight Loss programs (4 options), and improving utilization of telehealth. She said 25% of the annual budget has been used.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Paul Pasterczyk reviewed his report of October 31 and his partial report (Treasurer's worksheet) of November 30, 2019 (unaudited figures). He reported a fund balance of \$3,197,774 at the end of October.

Mr. Pasterczyk said that the FY19 audit has started.

Mr. Pasterczyk said his current stipend is \$6,000 and that he is requesting an increase to \$7,000 retroactive to July 1, 2019.

Tom Sullivan moved to increase the Treasurer's stipend to \$7,000 retroactive to July 1, 2019.

Motion

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

GBS reports:

Carol Cormier reviewed the Funding Rate Analysis Report with data through October. She said that the composite expense-to-funding ratio is 94.5%.

Ms. Cormier reviewed the reinsurance reports. She said for the FY19 policy period there were three claimants with claims exceeding the \$250K specific deductible. She said their total claims were \$1,354,027 with excess claims of \$604,027. She said that this is subject to the \$150K aggregating specific deductible (ASD) and there have been no reimbursements to date. Ms. Cormier said that there have been 18 claims between \$125K and \$250K.

Ms. Cormier said that for the FY20 policy period there has been one claimant exceeding the \$250K specific deductible with total claims of \$335,197 and excess claims of \$85,197. She said that there have been no reimbursements to date.

Diabetes Care Rewards Program report:

Patty Joyce, Abacus Health Solutions, distributed and reviewed the program report which covers the period 9/1/18 through 8/31/19.

Ms. Joyce said that SVRHT has excellent member engagement and adherence. She said that 44% of diabetics eligible to enroll in the program did enroll and that the annual program adherence was 67%. She said that the total number of prescriptions filled was 1,482, the copay waivers were \$36,532, and the medication costs were \$372,219. Ms. Joyce said that the estimated savings for the current reporting period is \$133,874. She said since program inception in 2010, the estimated savings were \$1,075,505.

Patty Joyce reviewed Abacus's 2019 recommendations which included new features for 2020.

Ms. Joyce called attention to the Abacus hand-out on its 10-year scientifically-controlled study. She said it showed a 20.1% decrease in members with an HbA1c greater than 9 and during the Program intervention, medical claims for the participant group were nearly \$1,400 per member per year less, and the frequency of high cost claims in the participant group was 8 compared to 47 in the non-participant group.

Ethics Commission matter:

Carol Cormier explained a situation in the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG), another MA municipal Joint Purchase Group (JPG), that resulted in the CCMHG's seeking guidance from the Ethics Commission (EC) and input from legal counsel. She said that the EC has stated and confirms that a JPG primary or alternate Board Representative who is appointed by the local Appropriate Public Authority and who receives his or her health benefits through the JPG has a conflict of interest in deliberating and voting

on issues that affect the costs of the JPG health insurance plans. She said that this can be addressed through disclosing the conflict and obtaining approval to participate from the Representative's appointing authority. She said that it appears that more than 2/3rds of JPG Board members receive their health benefits through the JPG. Ms. Cormier said that she had included the Disclosure Forms in the packet but would also sent them by email along with the legal opinion letter obtained by CCMHG.

Health Plan reports:

Tufts Health Plan, Senior Plans – Fred Winer said that open enrollment for the senior plans went well. He mentioned East Longmeadow's special meeting with HNE MedPlus members about the costs of the high cost MedPlus plan and other options for the seniors. He and Corinne Tranghese thought about seventy people attended.

BCBSMA – Heidi Fountain talked about BCBS Rx formulary changes effective January 1st.

Ms. Fountain clarified why BCBS cannot write language into the health plan documents allowing plan sponsors not to provide coverage for dependents of covered dependents.

Carol Cormier said that the Affordable Care Act does not require Plan Sponsors to cover dependents of dependents and that the SVRHT is able to exclude the coverage as it has been doing. She said she suggests that to continue the current practice the Board should take a confirming vote at its next Board meeting.

Ms. Fountain agreed with Ms. Cormier.

Tufts Health Plan – Lisa Despres talked about the merger agreement between Tufts and Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan. She said that the process is moving along and they two organizations are going through the regulatory requirements. She said she expects more information to be available at the end of the summer.

Health New England –

Carol Cormier said that Sandra Ruiz was unable to attend the meeting, but very recently sent her the proposed Amendment to the SVRHT HMO PLANS Summary Plan Description. She said that there were several changes that will go into effect for all but that there were two proposed changes that were optional and required a vote by the SVRHT. Ms. Cormier said she told Ms. Ruiz that there was not sufficient time to review the proposals and that Ms. Ruiz should present them in person. Ms. Ruiz agreed to remove the optional items from the handout and to present them to the Board later for a possible 7/1/20 adoption date.

Other business:

Arlene Miller set the next meeting for February 19, 2020 at 9:30 AM at Wilbraham Town Hall. She said this will be the meeting at which the active employee plan health plan rates are set.

There was no other business.

Tom Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion

Howie Barber seconded the motion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Arlene Miller, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

*Prepared by Carol Cormier, MHA, LIA
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.*