Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Tuesday September 15, 2026, 9:30 AM
By Remote Participation

Meeting Minutes

Members and Alternates present:

Arlene Miller, Chair	Town of Longmeadow
Dick Patullo	Town of Hampden
Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Anna Bishop	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.
Audra Graham	Town of East Longmeadow

Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk	SVRHT Treasurer
Marcy Morrison	SVRHT Wellness Consultant
Karen Fink	LPVEC
Ian Coddington	Town of Longmeadow
Jocelyn Sanchez	Town of Longmeadow
Doug Slaughter	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Sophia Bletsos	Town of Wilbraham
Megan Emrick-Laskow	Town of East Longmeadow
Heidi Fountain	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Hannah Guertin	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Amy Bickford	Abacus Health
Alysha Beaudry	Abacus Health Solutions
Linda Burns	Harvard Pilgrim/Tufts
Cashel Scanlon	Harvard Pilgrim
Jim Riley	CanaRx
Joseph Anderson	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS
Liz Amato	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)
Patrick Flattery	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)
Jessica Dube	Gallagher Benefit Services Inc. (GBS)

Arlene Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. A roll call was taken with voting attendees listed as:

Arlene Miller, Chair	Town of Longmeadow
Dick Patullo	Town of Hampden
Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Audra Graham	Town of East Longmeadow

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Approval of the minutes of June 9, 2026, meeting:

Arlene Miller notes a few errors that needed to be corrected within the June 9th minutes.

Motion

Christina Gagnon then made a motion to approve the June 9th minutes.

Audra Graham seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote:

Arlene Miller	Yes
Dick Patullo	Yes
Barbara Hancock	Yes
Christina Gagnon	Yes
Audra Graham	Yes

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Wellness Report:

Marcy Morrison, Wellness Consultant, reported that the FY2025-2026 Wellness Program concluded on May 31, 2026. A total of 56 participants earned at least 50 wellness points, with most participants earning between 150 and 200 points. Ms. Morrison reviewed the new wellness program year beginning October 15, 2026, including expanded educational offerings and carrier-sponsored wellness opportunities. She noted that participation remains lower than desired and plans additional outreach efforts to increase engagement. Ms. Morrison reported that no new participants had utilized the Trust's colonoscopy incentive program. She also reviewed upcoming retiree benefits fairs and confirmed her participation at member-unit fairs scheduled for October.

The Board discussed participation levels in wellness initiatives, including HealthTrax programs. Ms. Morrison agreed to obtain participation data from HealthTrax for future review. The Board also discussed including COVID-19 vaccination incentives as part of the wellness program, and Ms. Morrison agreed to update program materials accordingly.

Treasurer Report:

Paul Pasterczyk reviewed the FY2026 year-end financial results and July and August 2026 financial reports. The Trust ended FY2026 with a loss of approximately $3.87 million and a decline in cash and investments of approximately $4.0 million. The Trust's unreserved fund balance decreased to approximately $2.6 million on June 30, 2026. The primary driver of the unfavorable results was a significant increase in Blue Cross Blue Shield claims experience, which increased approximately 22% over the prior year. Mr. Pasterczyk reviewed July and August claims activity, noting continued high claims costs, particularly within the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans. Despite the challenging results, claims paid in September and projected October payments showed notable improvement, suggesting the Trust may be beginning to experience the impact of the July 1, 2026 benefit changes.

The Board discussed utilization trends, reserve levels, and the impact of recent plan design changes, including the elimination of GLP-1 weight loss drug coverage. Joseph Anderson indicated that claims experience appeared to be stabilizing and that additional claims analysis would be completed for review at a future meeting.

GBS reports:

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Joseph Anderson reviewed funding and claims utilization reports for the Trust. FY2026 results reflected significant claims activity and a corresponding reduction in surplus levels. Preliminary FY2027 experience showed improvement relative to prior months, although continued monitoring will be necessary. Medicare claims experience remained relatively stable, and renewal information for Medicare plans was expected in advance of the October rate-setting meeting. Mr. Anderson also reviewed stop-loss activity for FY2026 and early FY2027. Stop-loss reimbursements continued to be received in a timely manner, and additional reimbursements are anticipated as FY2026 claims continue to mature.

Health plan and vendor reports:

Heidi Fountain with Blue Cross Blue Shield reported that Blue Cross representatives will participate in upcoming retiree benefits fairs. She noted that healthcare trend levels continue to remain elevated nationally and agreed to work with GBS to further review claim utilization patterns affecting the Trust. Patrick Flattery also reviewed the Medicare market and reported that Medicare renewals are expected to continue trending upward, with increases approaching broader healthcare trend levels. Renewal information is expected shortly and will be presented during October renewal discussions.

Cashel Scanlon with Harvard Pilgrim introduced herself as the new account executive for Harvard Pilgrim's active and retiree products. She reported that renewal discussions are underway and confirmed participation in upcoming retiree fairs.

Linda Burns with Tufts reported that the 2027 Tufts Medicare Preferred renewal information had been released and would be reviewed as part of the October rate-setting process.

CanaRx:

Jim Riley reported that the CanRx program generated approximately $223,000 in savings during FY2026. He also identified approximately 152 eligible members who are not currently utilizing the program, representing an estimated $800,000 in additional annual savings opportunity. The Board discussed additional communication efforts to encourage participation.

Abacus Health:

Alysha Beaudry presented the annual Good Health Gateway Diabetes Program report. The Trust currently has 258 identified diabetic members, with 93 enrolled in the program. Program participation and adherence continue to exceed municipal and national benchmarks. The program generated over $114,000 in rebate revenue during the reporting period.

The Board discussed participant engagement, barriers to enrollment, and opportunities to increase outreach. Suggestions included employee testimonials, expanded newsletter content, educational videos, and targeted outreach to families with juvenile diabetic dependents. Ms. Beaudry and Ms. Morrison agreed to collaborate on future communication efforts.

Other business:

Ian Coddington with the town of Longmeadow asked whether the Trust could offer high-deductible health plan options in the future. Mr. Anderson advised that such plans remain an available option and that educational discussions regarding high-deductible plans are planned later this year. The Board discussed potential implementation timing and the need for member and bargaining-unit education.

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The Board scheduled its next meeting for **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.** via remote participation.

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM.

Minutes prepared by Jessica Dube
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.

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