

Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Thursday March 28, 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
Kimberly Collins	Town of East Longmeadow
Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
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
Ian Coddington	Town of Longmeadow
Gloria Congram	Town of Wilbraham
Herta Dane	Town of Wilbraham
Claire Kawalic	Town of Longmeadow
Karen Fink	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.
Heidi Fountain	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Sandra Ruiz	Health New England
Alysha Beaudry	Abacus Health Solutions
Elaine Wilson	Point 32 Health
Melissa Gabriel	Point 32 Health
Fred Winer	Point 32 Health
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
Kimberly Collins	Town of East Longmeadow
Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
Anna Bishop	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.

Approval of the minutes of the January 18th, 2024 meeting:

Dick Patullo moved approval of the minutes of the February 14th, 2024 meeting meeting as presented.

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
Anna Bishop	Yes

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Wellness Report:

Marcy Morrison presented her current Wellness Report. The newsletter includes valuable info that people need. The meal prep guide has been well received. There are about 10 recipes in each one with prep for each meal and a grocery shopping list. The Colonoscopy Program has had 47 members since inception so that is good. This month is Colon Cancer Awareness Month and there has been an uptick in people asking about the program. The Wellness Works program is going well. Health New England has 65 employees participating and Blue Cross currently has 45. Blue Cross has a lower number probably because everyone has to sign in and start over in the A Healthy Me platform. Some are having difficulty logging in so they are being encouraged to contact Marcy and she can help them out in terms of where they are in the portal. By the end of May this should be all worked out. There are five Tufts members that participate. The Tufts Wellness portal is shared every month in the newsletter as well because it is a great way to take some yoga and mindfulness classes from trainers that have been vetted. In March there was a class on gut health and 24 people attended via live webinar and 12 watched the recording. Kick Your Sugar Habit is a 40 minute online course with some recipe downloads and a seven day challenge to reduce sugar content. There are 72 that have participated and it is available for the length of the wellness program. A Couch to 5K program is being launched for the spring. Detox Your Life will teach how to go through cabinets and take out foods that are full of chemicals and perhaps remove some of the toxic chemicals that we use to clean our houses. Mental Health and Hormone Health for Women are being facilitated by practioners. Benefits fairs are coming up as well.

Arlene Miller asked about the incentive for the Wellness Works program.

Ms. Morrison said that it is \$200 for Blue Cross and \$150 for Health New England. She asked if it could be the same for both.

Ms. Miller said it could be the same for all and asked if there were any objections. There were none.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Paul Pasterczyk presented his February 2024 financial reports (unaudited figures). The balance at the beginning of the month was \$15.2 million. There was reinsurance in the amount of \$65,000 and stable expenditures. The month ended with \$14.7 million but \$700,000 was timing and not an issue.

Revenues outpaced expenditures by \$231,000 for the month and for the year by \$2.2 million. Target balance of 12% of the prior 12 months worth of claims of \$3.36 million compared to the unreserved fund balance of \$9.2 million, leaves an excess of \$5.7 million.

GBS reports:

Joe Anderson reviewed the FY24 Funding Rate Analysis (FRA) report as of February 2024. Mr. Anderson said the expense to funding ratio through December was 92.5% resulting in a funding surplus of \$1,716,607. Every account is running below 100% except for the Tufts EPO and HNE Medi Wrap. Tufts is a very small account. There have been several big months in claims on the HNE plan which will be watched as a whole with Medicare. Medicare part D expenses are something to be examined as the group heads towards renewal. He asked Fred Winer to speak briefly about Medicare Part D.

Fred Winer said that there are potential major changes coming. The government potentially will put less money in the donut hole. That means that copays may go up and the formulary may change. The increase could be up to \$30. It is very much an unknown right now but will be an impact on the plans for next year.

Joe Anderson said it could be a material impact for the retirees and budgets so a proactive approach is best.

Dick Patullo asked when the news will arrive.

Mr. Winer said well in advance of rate setting.

Karen Quinlivan reviewed the FY23 reinsurance reports. She said with data through February, there were 6 claimants with \$624,965.68 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 outstanding amount due of \$49.54. There were 19 claimants with claims between \$125K and \$250K totaling \$ 3,543,181.93. The same report for FY24 through December had 3 claimants with \$280,201.81 in claims above the \$250K deductible. There has been \$ 65,158.55 in reimbursements and the outstanding amount due is \$ 65,043.26. There were 8 claimants having claims between \$125K and \$250K totaling \$ 1,411,814.87.

Westcomm discussion:

Arlene Miller asked Paul Pasterczyk to give a brief background on the participation of Westcomm in the SVRHT. Mr. Pasterczyk said that it was a regional dispatch group that started about five years ago with a number of local communities. It started off with Longmeadow and Chicopee. It has since grown and there are a number of other participants. There are maybe 35 or 40 employees at this time. Back in 2018 the SVRHT was asked if they could be covered under the joint purchase group. At the time they were covered as an affiliate group to Longmeadow. They did not have a vote at the table.

Mark Gold from Longmeadow said that the vote from the March 21, 2018 Board meeting allowed them to join as an affiliate of Longmeadow and they would represent them on the Board for SVRHT. The vote stated that Westcomm could not grow to more than 50 employees and no further communities could be added to Westcomm. There are now 5 communities that participate. They pay their invoice separately. They have bought a facility with state funding and have several communities looking to join them. The question is at what point does the group reach critical mass to have a place at the table as a separate member of SVRHT.

Arlene Miller said that Longmeadow has been doing reporting for Westcomm on the ACA reporting. That process has not been a smooth process in the last several years and it would be beneficial to have them separate.

Joe Anderson said that the ACA process can be streamlined to make sure that the reports are separated for both entities and provided to Longmeadow if they remain an affiliate.

Anna Bishop said the issue seems to be larger than the ACA.

Joe Anderson said the first barrier would be the language that the group might want to revisit that constrains the Westcomm ability to add additional communities. They are not a material member base. The latest invoice has 13 individual and 5 family enrollments.

Dick Patullo said that his recollection was that this was done even before they had any operational structure. They hired a manager and they needed to insure that person. He asked what happens to equity if another unit is added.

Joe Anderson said he would review the joint purchase group to review the language. Generally there is language that if a member withdraws they are entitled to a proportionate share of the excess. If Westcomm withdrew they would be entitled to nothing since they are a part of Longmeadow.

Paul Pasterczyk said it would be easier for them to have their own separate group numbers and be a separate entity.

Anna Bishop said consideration should be made to the terms for equity. If they came on as a member they perhaps should not share in accumulated assets for a period of time.

Mark Gold said that if Longmeadow had a 10% equity stake and Westcomm was 1% of Longmeadow, they should get that stake as small as it may be.

Dick Patullo said the group could leave things the way they are or change the original language in the 2018 vote. He liked the idea of being able to create a member who doesn't vote until they reach a certain level in the system.

Arlene Miller said the issue is bigger if the Board adds another member and that leads to the next issue on the agenda.

Ludlow Participation:

Arlene Miller said that the town administrator in Ludlow contacted her and said that they wanted to become a member of SVRHT for July 1. Joe Anderson clarified that the process is not that simple. Ludlow is now going through an internal study looking at options for health care. It does not mean that they are not interested in joining but it may be on the horizon for further out.

Anna Bishop said that they tried to join the group in the past and they were not allowed based on experience.

Joe Anderson said that if a group is to be considered they need to submit early intent so that data can be collected on claims experience. It can then be factored into renewal to find out how it may impact projections going forward and whether they are a good risk. It was a reactive move on their part when MIIA released their rates. Many groups are searching for options in relation to their fiscal crisis.

Anna Bishop suggested a look at the joint purchase group language to address groups that may want to join. With a health fund balance, perhaps language should be added to tighten things up to protect the group.

Kimberly Collins asked if there is perhaps a buy in provision for new groups.

Joe Anderson said perhaps a higher rate structure could be established for them or something of that nature. He will look at the language and see if there is something that might be advisable to add.

Good Health Gateway Dashboard Report:

Alysha Beaudry presented her report at the last meeting so had nothing additional to add at this time.

Health plan and vendor reports:

Blue Cross – Heidi Fountain said that annual mental health wellness exams are now covered under the plan. They can be conducted as part of the preventive visit with the PCP or standalone visits with a PCP or licensed mental health professional. If anyone has needs for health fair materials or needs Blue Cross to attend an event, please let them know.

Health New England – Sandra Ruiz was unable to attend the meeting but conveyed that the purchase of Health New England by Point 32 Health will not impact plans for some time pending final approval.

Tufts – Elaine Wilson 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. There are 52 Tufts subscribers

Barbara Hancock asked if they will be mapped automatically.

Joe Anderson said that most units are trying to have folks fill out a form so they are aware of the changes to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Ms. Wilson said that is there are any questions she can assist with please reach out.

CanaRx – Jim Riley said that savings for the plan year are at \$199,289.35. Projected savings for the full year are \$ 298,934.03. Average savings for the member is \$84.86 per script or \$340 annually if they are filling quarterly.

Other business:

There was no other business.

The Chair, Arlene Miller, set the next Board meeting for Wednesday May 8th, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

