

## Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

### Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:30 AM

[Remote Participation by WebEx](#)

### Meeting Minutes

#### Board Members and Alternates present:

Arlene Miller, Chair	Town of Longmeadow
Tom Lachusua	Town of Longmeadow
Dick Patullo	Town of Hampden
Tom Sullivan	Town of Wilbraham
Corinne Tranghese	Town of East Longmeadow
Aaron Osborne	Hampden Wilbraham RSD

#### Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk	SVRHT Treasurer
Lyn Fioravanti	SVRHT Wellness Coordinator
Herta Dane	Town of Wilbraham
Jocelyn Sanchez	Town of Longmeadow
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Cheryl Wiblyi	Lower Pioneer Valley Education Collaborative
Patty Joyce	Abacus Health Solutions
Heidi Fountain	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Jonathan Payson	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Sandra Ruiz	Health New England (HNE)
Lisa Despres	Tufts Health Plan
Rae Felts	Tufts Health Plan
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan Senior Products
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
Corinne Tranghese	Town of East Longmeadow
Tom Sullivan	Town of Wilbraham
Aaron Osborne	Hampden Wilbraham RSD

**Approval of the minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting:**

Tom Sullivan moved approval of the minutes as corrected for spelling.

Motion
--------

Dick Patullo seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote on the motion:

Arlene Miller	Yes
Dick Patullo	Yes
Corinne Traghese	Yes
Tom Sullivan	Yes
Aaron Osborne	Yes

The motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2021 passed by unanimous vote.

**Wellness Program report:**

Lyn Fioravanti, Wellness Consultant, reviewed her report of the wellness budget, spending and programs. She showed participation in the wellness initiatives: Colonoscopy incentive, Pilates, Yoga, and Wellness Works. There were webinars available for view on anxiety, depression, stress management and mental health. These are all on the website for 30 days for people to view. HNE had a mental health challenge in April that eight of their members participated in. Current happenings include Zoom Pilates classes in Longmeadow, Wilbraham and South Hadley. Zoom Yoga continues with Janine. The Wellness Works Program is continuing through May. Ms. Fioravanti purchased a “Weight Loss for Life” program from a fellow wellness coordinator for use in next year’s program. It is an online, evidence based lifestyle program by a certified coach with support. The cost was \$1,000 and Blue Cross will reimburse the group for the program through wellness credits. Ms. Fioravanti is also being featured in the BCBSMA newsletter for her “outstanding job supporting the wellbeing of the Scantic Valley folks ...during the pandemic.” So far, 42.8% of the total annual budget has been spent.

**Treasurer’s report:**

Treasurer Paul Pasterczyk reviewed the March 2021 financial reports (unaudited figures). The beginning balance for the month was \$9.5M and ending balance \$11.1M. There was a large amount of trust premium received for the month due to timing. A Retiree Drug Subsidy check was received in the amount of \$38,637. Mr. Pasterczyk said that to obtain a higher interest rate he opened an account at Adams Community bank and closed an account at Peoples United Bank. Trial balance revenues over expenditures on a cash basis was \$1.26M. Health New England pharmaceutical rebates contributed the major portion of that amount. Fund Balance (Equity) was \$5.28M, roughly \$2 million above the Fund Balance target. April reports so far are looking good.

**GBS reports:**

Joe Anderson reviewed the FY21 Funding Rate Analysis (FRA) report as of March 31, 2021. Mr. Anderson said the expense to funding ratio through October was 96.73% resulting in a funding surplus of \$770,758.

Mr. Anderson said that the HNE MedWrap plan continues to be a plan that needs to be looked at in terms of sustainability going forward. The rebates do not make up for the annual deficit.

Karen Quinlivan reviewed the FY20 reinsurance reports. She said with data through March, there were \$1,431,540 in claims above the \$250K deductible. The \$150K Aggregating Specific Deductible has been met. Total reimbursements to date were \$1,279,906 and outstanding reimbursements were \$1634.10. A credit from FY19 that was moved forward to FY20 leave an actual amount due of \$605.35. Ms. Quinlivan reviewed the FY20 “50% Report” with 17 claimants having claims between \$125K and \$250K that cumulatively totaled \$3,063,712.

The same reports for FY21 through the month of March showed 2 claimants with claims above the \$250K deductible in the amount of \$ 81,663. The amount in excess was applied to the \$150K Aggregating Specific Deductible. The FY21 “50% Report” showed 14 claimants having claims between \$125K and \$250K that cumulatively totaled \$2,302,896.

Joseph Anderson reported to the group that the FY22 reinsurance renewal came in with an opportunity to renew with the current carrier for a zero % rate increase. Due to the need for a quick turnaround on the renewal and possible need for an RFQ, members were polled and there were no comments on the renewal. Last year the group entered into a block pricing agreement where there was no rate increase and no lasers. The current carrier was interested in renewing the block, so came back with a zero% increase. If this was sent out to bid, there would be potential claims that would impact potential rates. The renewal is viewed a favorable.

Tom Sullivan asked why the group is receiving a zero percent increase.

Joe Anderson responded that Scantic Valley is a small part of a very large block now and the claims exposure is small compared to the entire block.

Dick Patullo motioned to accept the FY22 Stop Loss renewal as presented for a zero% increase.

Motion
--------

Tom Sullivan seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote.

Arlene Miller	Yes
Dick Patullo	Yes
Corinne Tranghese	Yes
Tom Sullivan	Yes
Aaron Osborne	Yes

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Proposed HNE Benefit Discussion:**

At the last meeting, an HNE acupuncture benefit was approved and a massage therapy was not. The introduction of the benefits was a late and there was not enough time to do a cost benefit analysis. Further information was gathered and forwarded out to the board. The acupuncture benefit would have an incremental cost of 20 cents per member per month. The annual cost would be a little over \$5,000 to SVRHT. Blue Cross and Tufts already offer an acupuncture benefit. It is an increasingly mainstream benefit and will leave HNE in parody with the other carriers. The massage benefit is not offered by the other carriers. The cost is estimated to be between 8 and 11 cents per member per month. Most benefits are offered with a defined provider network. That way the benefit can be closely monitored. The only criteria is that the provider be licensed in the state and location where it is administered. The estimated

cost for a massage is between \$75 and \$125. The benefit would be limited to two visits per family per year. It does not stipulate what the massage is used for and there is no medical component to it. It does not appear to be a tightly managed benefit. Massage may become more prevalent as time continues but at this time, it is not widely offered. The decision was to continue without further discussion and leave the prior decisions as is.

**Health Plan Reports:**

Blue Cross – Heidi Fountain said that formulary updates were recently sent out. She reminded everyone that virtual fitness is a reimbursable expense as of 07/01/21 on the fitness reimbursement form. Effective 07/01/21 Blue Cross will also reinstate member cost share for non Covid-19 covered services provided via telehealth including care provided telephonically and via video chat. They are also expanding the types of services eligible for telehealth coverage. Fees for Covid related services will still be waived. BCBS is also available for supplies or any information required for open enrollment as well as support for virtual health fairs.

Health New England – Sandra Ruiz said that HNE also will be sending formulary changes. As of March 1, 2021 they added LabCorp. to their list of providers of laboratory services in MA. And Conn.

Tufts- Lisa Despres said that they are available for any open enrollment needs. She also provided some vaccination data although cautioned the numbers will never be 100% accurate.

Fred Winer said that vaccinations will be under reported. All senior programs are running well.

Abacus Health - Patty Joyce said there was a webinar last week that had over 400 people register. When people registered, they received a link to watch the webinar. There were 136 people that watched the webinar live as well. The link will be forwarded to post to the SVRHT website. They are happy to provide support for any materials needed for open enrollment or virtual presentations.

CanaRx- Chris Collins said that according to the last report the projected savings is in excess of \$411,000. Jim Riley, who will be working directly with employer groups to meet any of their direct needs to promote CanaRx and increase participation hopefully will drive those numbers up.

**Other business:**

There was no other business.

The Chair, Arlene Miller, set the next Board meeting for June 15, 2021 at 9:30AM.

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:31 AM.

*Minutes prepared by Karen Quinlivan  
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.*