Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT)

Board Meeting

Tuesday November 19th, 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
Audra Staples	Town of East Longmeadow
Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Anna Bishop	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.

Guests present:

Paul Pasterczyk	SVRHT Treasurer
Marcy Morrison	SVRHT Wellness Consultant
Mark Gold	Town of Longmeadow
Claire Kawalec	Town of Longmeadow
Ian Coddington	Town of Longmeadow
Megan Emrick-Laskow	Town of East Longmeadow
Herta Dane	Town of Wilbraham
Jocelyn Sanchez	Town of Longmeadow
Karen Fink	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.
Heidi Fountain	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Alysha Beaudry	Abacus Health Solutions
Sandra Ruiz	Health New England
Paul Lazar	Point 32 Health
Elaine Wilson	Point 32 Health
Melissa Gabriel	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 9:31 AM. Roll call was taken with voting attendees listed as:

Arlene Miller, Chair	Town of Longmeadow
Dick Patullo	Town of Hampden
Audra Staples	Town of East Longmeadow

Barbara Hancock	Town of Wilbraham
Christina Gagnon	Hampden Wilbraham RSD
Karen Fink	Lower Pioneer Valley Educ. Collab.

Approval of the minutes of the October 9th, 2024, meeting:

Christina Gagnon moved approval of the minutes of the October 9th, 2024meeting as presented. Motion

Barbara Hancock seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote on the motion:

Arlene Miller	Yes
Dick Patullo	Yes
Audra Staples	Abstain
Barbara Hancock	Yes
Christina Gagnon	Yes
Karen Fink	Abstain

The motion passed by majority vote.

Wellness Report:

Marcy Morrison presented her report. The new incentive program started on November 4th and will run through May 31st. One program, Eat Right for Cancer was included in the October newsletter in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Healthy Happy Holidays started this week and will run through January 1st. Participants will receive weekly tips, menu plans and exercise tips to stay healthy during the holiday season. The Colonoscopy Program is continuing with the $100 incentive. BCBS gift card vouchers are now being used for this program. Since Ms. Morrison's start there have been 59 participants. Wellness Works will have a weight management program beginning in December. There will be an app that will function as a personal trainer. Every day they will know exactly how to work out with lower intensity interval training for beginners. Most of the app focuses on beginners and as they progress, more advanced programs will follow. Weight loss drugs are now becoming lifetime drugs. If members join the program, they will know the side effects of those drugs. Even if they go on GLP1 drugs, they will still have to be on a program like this.

Arlene Miller asked if smoking cessation programs were available.

Ms. Morrison said that they are provided through the carriers, but she would investigate it. Any marketing materials from the carriers can be added to the newsletters.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Paul Pasterczyk presented the October 2024 financial reports (unaudited figures). The balance at the beginning of the month was $13.3 million. Trust premiums were normal. There was a reinsurance amount received of approximately $ 209,665. Operating expenses were stable. Claims for the months were a little bit lower. Net cash for the fiscal year was up $194,336. Trial Balance shows that the group is operating at a slight loss through October of about $225,000. The group ended up with a total unreserved fund balance of $8.7 million. There is an excess of target fund balance of $5.23 million.

The fiscal year FY24 audit has been started and should be available after the start of the year. The group will work with Dan Haynes again.

GBS reports:

Joe Anderson reviewed the FY25 Funding Rate Analysis (FRA) report as of September 30, 2024. Mr. Anderson said the expense to funding ratio through September was 102.5 resulting in a funding deficit of $215,715. Three months experience is not credible. There will be three more months of experience to include in the renewal calculations. Scantic has benefited from stop loss on extremely large claims. For fiscal year 24, total premiums were $1.65 million and there will be about $2 million coming back.

Karen Quinlivan reviewed the FY24 reinsurance reports. She said with data through September, there were 10 claimants with $ 2,144,463.64 in claims above the $250K deductible. The $150K Aggregating Specific Deductible has been met. Total reimbursements to date were $1,963,063.06 and there is an outstanding amount due the group of $32,400.58. There were 24 claimants with claims between $125K and $250K totaling $ 4,150,298.64. The same reports for FY25 through September have two members at the 50% level with total updated paid claims of $313,471.50.

Update on Open Enrollment:

Joe Anderson said that Tufts/Harvard Pilgrim had the most change associated with open enrollment. He asked Melissa Gabriel to provide some feedback.

Melissa Gabriel said that there were three benefit fairs in Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, and Wilbraham. A colleague attended Longmeadow, and it was very busy. They actually ran out of kits, and more were sent overnight. East Longmeadow was busy as well and there were many questions, most regarding the drug change to Aetna. She tried her best to look up drugs for people on the formulary to put minds at rest. Most left confident that they would have a similar plan and were grateful to have answers to their questions. Wilbraham was not as well attended but the same process was followed, and it was successful. The migration of the membership is going smoothly. They have been moved internally and the file will be going over to Aetna. ID cards will be released the second or third week of December.

Joe Anderson said that a reminder email was sent out yesterday to remind everyone that forms for those opting out of the transition need to be in by the end of the month. That will allow for the termination through Aetna and the enrollment in respective carrier prescription plans. There is a process regulated through CMS, and it is important to get forms in a timely fashion.

Mr. Anderson spoke regarding the recent hospital consolidations and changes. Steward had 10 hospitals that has seen three or four going out and the rest have been divided up in ownership. Some are saying they don't have enough hospital beds. The Mass Hospital Assoc. would have you believe that they are on death's doorstep. The industry as a whole is under a stressor. There will always be hospital consolidations and national investors trying to buy on the cheap. In Worcester, St Vincents is owned by Tenet Healthcare out of Texas. They are engaging in hardball negotiations with Point 32 Health for a new contract. Providers want to be paid more, and the carriers want to pay less. Unfortunately, the members get stuck in the middle when things become dragged out in the public sphere.

Karen Fink asked what will be included in enrollment packets.

Melissa Gabriel said that the HPHC members will receive a confirmation and enrollment letter and their ID card from Aetna. There will be a Medicare prescription payment plan info sheet as well as privacy practices and notice of online digital documents. They can go online and see the full evidence of coverage. The formulary and pharmacy directory will be online but there will be instructions in the welcome packet.

Health plan and vendor reports:

Health New England – Sandra Ruiz said the semiannual notice was sent. It includes any medical or formulary changes that HNE is making. There was one item that requires a voting decision since the group is self-insured. Under medical drugs, chemotherapy and radiation therapy are now going to apply towards the deductible on those deductible plans offered.

Dick Patullo said that if the group allows the change, members will meet deductible easier.

Arlene Miller questioned the change regarding union negotiations and asked if it could be put off until open enrollment.

Sandra Ruiz conformed it could.

Dick Patullo motioned to decline the change

Motion

Christina Gagnon seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote.

Arlene Miller	Yes
Dick Patullo	Yes
Audra Staples	Yes
Barbara Hancock	Yes
Christina Gagnon	Yes
Anna Bishop	Yes

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Blue Cross – Heidi Fountain said that health fairs were busy, and many had questions on benefit comparisons. She had nothing else to add.

Tufts/Harvard Pilgrim – Elaine Wilson said that they are looking very closely at the conversations with Metrowest and St. Vincents regarding negotiations with Tenet. Other than that, everything is status quo.

CanaRx – Jim Riley said that savings through October were provided in reports. Individual unit potential savings reports are now available for distribution. He would like to send out and spend 15 minutes connecting with units to discuss potential approaches.

Joe Anderson suggested showing achieved savings as a percentage of potential. That way it can be a benchmark. Scantic is probably outperforming other JPG groups.

Other business:

There was no other business.

The Chair, Arlene Miller, set the next Board meeting for Wednesday January 22, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Quinlivan
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.