

**MINUTES OF THE
CAPE COD MUNICIPAL HEALTH GROUP**

STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:00 PM
Sandwich Municipal Office Building, Sandwich, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (“CCMHG”) was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at the Sandwich Municipal Office Building, Sandwich, MA. The following people attended the meeting:

Committee Members Present:

A. Francis (“Skip”) Finnell, Chair	Dennis-Yarmouth RSD
Noreen Mavro-Flanders, Board Chair	County of Dukes County
Marie Buckner	Town of Sandwich
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
Heather Harper	Town of Falmouth
Erin Orcutt	Cape Cod Regional Technical School
Maggie Downey	Barnstable County

Guests Present:

Richard Bienvenue	Treasurer
Lisa Vitale	Town of Brewster
Richard Knowlton	Hyannis Fire
Paul J. Medeiros	Hyannis Fire
Suzanne Donahue	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan)
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan (THP)
Nina Conroy	Delta Dental
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Skip Finnell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting:

Noreen Mavro-Flanders motioned to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting.

Heather Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Richard Bienvenue reviewed the financial statements (unaudited figures) as of December 31, 2011. He reported a Total Fund Balance of \$25.6M, with a surplus balance of \$4M. He reported \$1.5M of RDS received. He said the December BCBS claims were very favorable. Mr. Bienvenue reviewed the Cash Flow Projections and said that the 2006 and 2008 RDS will be distributed in May.

Carol Cormier said that she will send out an email to the Board to advise of the distribution.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report.

Erin Orcutt seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion

Wellness Committee Report:

Marie Buckner asked to defer the report until the arrival of Maggie Downey.

GBS Reports:

Carol Cormier said that Milliman has been completing the CCMHG RDS attestations for several years for a fee. Ms. Cormier asked the Committee if they would like to continue with Milliman for FY13 attestations.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders made a motion to approve continuing with Milliman for the FY13 RDS attestations.

Motion

Debra Blanchette seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

CCMHG laptop computer – Carol Cormier said that she previously discussed purchasing a new laptop for the website maintenance. She said that the MNHG computer used for their website recently died as well. She said that the Board Chair of MNHG asked if CCMHG would consider contributing half of the cost of one computer that could be shared.

There was a discussion, and Noreen Mavro-Flanders suggested asking the webmaster to continue using her own computer to maintain the website for a monthly fee. She said that it didn't make sense to purchase a new computer if the Committee decides to hire someone to redesign the website.

Rich Bienvenue recommended someone from Colewebdev.com, who does work for his accounting company.

The Committee agreed with Ms. Mavro-Flanders.

Erin Orcutt made a motion to approve paying a stipend of \$30 per month to the current webmaster during until the committee determines how it wants to proceed with the website.

Motion

Marie Buckner seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Caitlin Raymond Registry Update:

Suzanne Donahue said that UMass Memorial and the affiliated Caitlin Raymond Registry have agreed to pay fines, legal costs and other restitutions, some to insurance companies for deceptive practices. She said that BCBS will credit CCMHG for monies reimbursed and due the group. She said that she is not sure how the credit will be processed yet.

Skip Finnell said that UMass has also agreed not to use models and not allow non-medical staff to wear lab coats.

Bill Hickey said that he would look into this with HPHC.

Maggie Downey joined the meeting.

Status of Lipitor on alternative RX program medications lists:

Carol Cormier said that Lipitor now has a generic equivalent and said that she asked for a review of the alternative medication lists. She said that BCBS and HPHC already require that the generic drug be tried first. Ms. Cormier said that Chris Collins at CanaRx said that they still can purchase Lipitor abroad at a lower cost than the generic equivalent and recommended leaving it on the alternative program Rx lists for as long as it is cost effective to do so.

The Committee agreed to leave Lipitor on the alternative RX program medication lists for as long as it is less costly than the generic equivalent purchased in the U.S..

February 16 meeting with Assistant Attorney General:

Skip Finnell said that Carol Cormier, Jack Sharry, Noreen Mavro-Flanders and he will be meeting with Jenifer Miller and Tom O'Brien in the Attorney Generals office. He said they are questioning BCBS's policy to add all state mandates to the plans of self-insured municipal plans.

Suzanne Donahue noted that BCBS Vice President John Coughlin is retiring on March 1, 2012 after 30 years with BCBS. She said that Larry Croes, Vice President, will be replacing him. She said that Mr. Croes has been with BCBS for approximately 15 years. Ms. Donahue said that Andrew Dreyfus is planning to attend the July CCMHG Board meeting.

Bill Hickey said that he invited Eric Schultz, HPHC CEO to the March meeting and is waiting for a confirmation that he will be able to attend.

Update on regional informational meetings:

Suzanne Donahue said that the meeting hosted by the towns of Harwich and Yarmouth went well. She said that a representative from myMedicationAdvisor® kicks off the meetings with ways for the members to save on medication costs. She said that she or Bill will talk about the definitions and the other gives details of the plan design changes. She said they then take general questions from the members. She said that they try to keep the meetings to under one hour.

Bill Hickey said that the employees seem to understand the benefits, but are unsure of why the changes are happening. He said that they now make sure to be clear that the health plan representatives are there to explain the benefits and not there to discuss unions, mitigation, etc. He said that the members wanted to receive handouts that were not available at all meeting locations.

Heather Harper said that they will be videotaping the meeting that will be held in the Town of Falmouth.

Richard Knowlton, from Harwich Fire District, said that speaking as an employee, he feels that there may be language barriers regarding the insurance terms used to explain the new plan design features. He said that CCMHG has done a good job of communicating and planning for the upcoming plan design changes.

Wellness Committee Report:

Maggie Downey said that the Committee is working on the FY13 Wellness Budget and said that it should be ready for the April meeting. She said that Dr. Flaherty will be completing post screenings and will be giving a report of the results.

Progress on making plan design changes at the local level:

Carol Cormier said that COMM Fire District and Hyannis Fire District each voted in Section 21-23.

Debra Blanchette said that she asked Administration and Finance for a list of all those who have adopted the section, and she said that the list was not complete.

Maggie Downey said that Barnstable County will be utilizing Chapter 150E instead of Section 21.

Marie Buckner said that the Town of Sandwich has voted in Sections 21-23 and she said that she will share the Agreement. She said that the town is giving a premium holiday with the 25% savings and they will also be setting up a catastrophic fund with the remainder of the balance from the premium holiday.

Heather Harper and Marie Buckner left the meeting.

Health Plan Reports:

Tufts Health Plan – Fred Winer said that he wanted the Committee to be aware that there is a Medicare Part D surcharge for retirees on the new Tufts Medicare Preferred Medicare Supplement plan who have high incomes. He said that he will talk about this briefly at the next Board meeting.

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care – Bill Hickey said that he is busy with the informational meetings and health fairs and said that it is very important that the members are educated on the changes.

Blue Cross Blue Shield – Suzanne Donahue said that BCBS offers voluntary plans that are employee paid plans through Indigo Services. She said that Indigo Services can also administer HRAs.

Delta Dental – Nina Conroy said that she is conducting a raffle at the town health fairs and will be giving away mouth guards for the sports teams at the winning unit. She said that she wanted to do something in addition to bringing toothbrushes.

Other Business:

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said that when the Committee works on the press release regarding plan design changes, it will be important to add what CCMHG has accomplished this year, including the RDS distribution and subsidizing the rates with \$8M.

Skip Finnell asked Carol Cormier to work on a draft press release.

There was no other business.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders moved to adjourn.

Motion

Erin Orcutt seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Skip Finnell adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter
Group Benefits Strategies*