

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 9:00 AM
Centerville Osterville Marstons Mills Fire District
Centerville, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (“CCMHG”) was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at the Centerville Osterville Marstons Mills Fire District, Centerville, MA. The following people attended the meeting:

Committee Members Present:

Bob Whritenour, Chair	Town of Falmouth
David Withrow	Town of Orleans
A. Francis (“Skip”) Finnell	Dennis-Yarmouth RSD
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
Marie Buckner	Town of Sandwich
Gerry Panuczak	Town of Chatham
Sue Milne	Town of Yarmouth

Guests Present:

Rich Bienvenue, CPA	CCMHG Treasurer
Nan Balmer	Town of Harwich
Suzanne Donahue	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Nina Conroy	Delta Dental of MA
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Bob Whritenour, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2009 Steering Committee meeting:

Skip Finnell motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2009.

Motion

Sue Milne seconded the motion after a correction is made on page 3 where the minutes state “independent audit company. She said it should say “audit committee”.

The motion with the correction passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Richard Bienvenue, CPA, said there was nothing new to report since the February 11, 2009 Steering Committee meeting.

FY10 Rate Recommendations for Legacy Members and the Town of Harwich:

Bob Whritenour said that the Harwich rates were not discussed at the February 11, 2009 Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Whritenour said that the agreement between the CCMHG and the Town of Harwich states that the town will not share in the fund balance until the town has completed two years of participation in the Group.

Carol Cormier said she provided the rates for the Town of Harwich without the subsidy included. She said copies of the rates were included in the meeting packet. Ms. Cormier said that the HPHC PPO plan rate is lower for the Town of Harwich than for the rest of the CCMHG but noted that most of the town's enrollments are with BCBS. Ms. Cormier said the Town of Harwich would get the same rates as the CCMHG legacy members for the insured plans. She said only the self-insured plans rates would be different. Ms. Cormier said in FY11 the Town of Harwich will be eligible to participate in the fund balance and then all rates will be the same for all of CCMHG.

Sue Milne asked if the Town of Harwich was eligible to participate in the premium holiday last year.

Carol Cormier said that they were not eligible but it was then noted that the Town was not a member of the Group at the time of the premium holiday in December 2007

Skip Finnell made a motion to recommend to the Board the unsubsidized rates for the Town of Harwich and the subsidized rates for the legacy members of CCMHG.

Motion

Dave Withrow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business:

Bill Hickey said that the GIC voted the new benefit packages for FY10. Mr. Hickey said the GIC was going to increase the rates 5% but that the benefits have been lowered and the co-pays have increased. He said there is a new co-pay for high-tech radiology. Mr. Hickey said he would email the specifics to Carol Cormier for distribution to the CCMHG.

Bob Whritenour said the GIC overall rate increase may not seem too bad; however, he said the decrease in the benefits will impact the members greatly. He said he was happy that the CCMHG was able to keep the rates reasonable without decreasing any of the plan benefits.

Skip Finnell said that Theresa Murray, State Senate Chair, is very keen on pushing the GIC option.

Carol Cormier said that at the meeting with Lieutenant Governor Murray that GBS sponsored, the Lt. Governor said that Joint Purchase Groups are a good alternative.

Bob Whritenour adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter
Group Benefits Strategies*