

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

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 8:30 AM  
COMM Fire District, Centerville, MA

**MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (“CCMHG”) was held on Wednesday, July 29, 2009 at the COMM Fire District, Centerville, MA. The following people attended the meeting:

**Committee Members Present:**

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

**Guests Present:**

Richard Bienvenue, CPA	CCMHG Treasurer
Linda O’Brien	Town of Provincetown
John Martis	Town of Falmouth
Suzanne Donahue	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Paul Lazar	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Bob Whritenour, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**High Cost Claimant:**

Bob Whritenour said he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Skip Finnell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation pertaining to the BCBS high cost claim.

Motion

Noreen Mavro-Flanders seconded the motion.

There was a roll call vote on the motion as follows:

David Withrow, Town of Orleans	- Yes,
Bob Whritenour, Town of Falmouth	- Yes,
Marie Buckner, Town of Sandwich	- Yes,
Maggie Downey, Barnstable County	- Yes,
A. Francis “Skip” Finnell, Dennis-Yarmouth RSD	- Yes,
Noreen Mavro-Flanders, County of Dukes County	- Yes,
Debra Blanchette, Town of Barnstable	- Yes,

Gerry Panuczak, Town of Chatham	- Yes,
Sue Milne, Town of Yarmouth	- Yes

Mr. Whritenour asked the health plan representatives to leave the meeting at this time. He said that the Committee would return to Open Session following the Executive Session.

Bob Whritenour adjourned the Open Session meeting at 8:35 a.m. and declared the Committee to be in Executive Session.



Bob Whritenour, Chair declared the meeting to be in Open Session at 8:50 a.m.

**Approval of the minutes of the June 17, 2009 Steering Committee meeting:**

Dave Withrow motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2009.

Motion

Noreen Mavro-Flanders seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**HPHC Level Monthly Deposit (LMD) Proposal:**

Carol Cormier reviewed the last six months of HPHC paid claims and said that the average monthly paid claims amount is \$2,074,469. Ms. Cormier said that HPHC is proposing a LMD for FY10 of \$2M. Ms. Cormier said that the current LMD is \$1.9M. She recommended acceptance of the HPHC proposal.

Gerry Panuczak made a motion to approve the HPHC proposed LMD of \$2M for fiscal year 2010.

Skip Finnell seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Motion

**BCBS Level Monthly Deposit (LMD) proposal:**

Carol Cormier reviewed the last six months of BCBS paid claims and said that the average monthly paid claims amount is \$8,005,105. Ms. Cormier said that BCBS is proposing a LMD for FY10 of \$8,722,400, an increase of 11.1% above the current LMD of \$7,850,000.

Ms. Cormier said that the BCBS proposal is high and suggested that the Committee make a counter-proposal.

There was a discussion.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders made a motion to counter the BCBS proposal with a proposed \$8,250,000 LMD for FY10.

Motion

Dave Withrow seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Suzanne Donahue said that the latest quarterly settlement amount was \$2.24M and that she would ask the underwriters to review the CCMHG's proposal.

Carol Cormier said that the CCMHG would continue to pay the current LMD until a new amount is accepted by both parties.

**GBS COBRA Administration Fee Proposal:**

Carol Cormier said that the renewal of the GBS COBRA administration fee contract expires this month and that the proposed three-year contract includes a 3% increase each year. Ms. Cormier said that the current administrative fee is \$0.38 per active employee plan subscriber per month.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said she felt the increase is appropriate due to the changes in COBRA that were included in the Economic Stimulus package.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders made a motion to approve the GBS COBRA three-year fee proposal with a fee increase of 3% for each of the three years.

Motion

Skip Finnell seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**Other Business:**

Gerry Panuczak said that he has been communicating with Dr. Cowles in Chatham of Cape Cod Eye Associates to see if the group would consider accepting EyeMed as one of their vision plans. Mr. Panuczak said that there are nine members in the group and most of the members are satisfied with the practice as it is. Mr. Panuczak said that they are a well established group and have a full patient base.

Mr. Panuczak said that Cape Cod Eye Associates was willing to consider offering a private discount to the members of CCMHG and suggested a meeting with the Committee to discuss it further.

Bob Whritenour asked Mr. Panuczak to obtain a proposal from the group to review prior to arranging a meeting.

Skip Finnell said that he utilized the EyeMed benefit recently and said that he wanted the Committee to know that the Premium Progressive lenses are covered differently than the basic progressive lenses.

The following meetings were scheduled:

- September 23, 2009 Steering Committee Meeting to be held on Martha's Vineyard, time and location to be determined.
- October 21, 2009 Steering Committee and Board Meetings to be held at COMM Fire District, at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. respectively.
- November 18, 2009 Steering Committee Meeting to be held at the Sandwich Municipal Office Building at 9:00 a.m.
- December 15, 2009 Steering Committee Meeting to be held at the Sandwich Municipal Office Building at 9:00 a.m.

There was no other business.

Bob Whritenour adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter  
Group Benefits Strategies*