

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

**Board Meeting**

Wednesday, September 7, 2011, 10:30 AM  
COMM Fire District, Centerville, MA

**MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Board of the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (“CCMHG”) was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 9:30 AM at the COMM Fire District, Centerville, MA. The following people attended the meeting:

**Board Members Present:**

A. Francis (“Skip”) Finnell, Chair	Dennis-Yarmouth RSD
Noreen Mavro-Flanders, Board Chair	County of Dukes County
Marie Buckner	Town of Sandwich
Erin Orcutt	Cape Cod Regional THS
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
Laura Scroggins	Town of Barnstable
Susan Milne	Town of Yarmouth
Gerry Panuczak	Town of Chatham
Maggie Downey	Barnstable County
Heather Harper	Town of Falmouth
Linda O’Brien	Town of Provincetown
Pam Hudson	Town of Provincetown
Sheryl McMahan	Dennis Water District
Cynthia Slade	Town of Truro
Dawn Rickman	Town of Wellfleet
John Martis	Town of Falmouth
Renie Dumont	Nauset Regional School District
Hans Baumhauer	Nauset Regional School District
Robert Cecil	Barnstable Fire District
Susan Stoltz	Barnstable Fire District
Judy Sprague	COMM Fire District
Joan Plante	Town of Eastham
Sheila Vanderhoef	Town of Eastham
Rose Crosby	Upper Cape Cod Regional Voc. Tech.
Irene Wright	Town of Yarmouth
Joanne Ford	Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority
Lisa Vitale	Town of Brewster
Jillian Douglass	Town of Brewster
Mary McIsaac	Town of Harwich
Nan Balmer	Town of Harwich
Verna LaFleur	Hyannis Fire District
Joyce Mason	Town of Mashpee
Robert Howard	Bourne Recreation Authority
Craig Mayen	Town of Sandwich
John Kelly	Town of Orleans
Beverly Haley	Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District
Nancy Ward	Bourne Water District
Sandra Fife	Town of Dennis

**Guests Present:**

Bud Dunham	Town of Sandwich
Christine Brailey-Greene	Town of Sandwich
Robin Cherry	Town of Sandwich
Linda Kiley	Town of Sandwich
Charles Frazier	Town of Eastham
Shawn Clark	Town of Wellfleet
Anne Clancy	Town of Dennis
Tom Mayo	Town of Mashpee
AnnMarie Silvia	Falmouth Public Schools
Michael Dalmau	Hyannis Fire District
Myra Suchenicz	Town of Orleans
Melanie Becker	Town of Chilmark
Judie Jardin	Town of Aquinnah
Matt Bearse	Town of Yarmouth
Ernie Holcomb	Town of Falmouth
Jan VonHerzen	Town of Falmouth
Philip Katz	MA Teachers Association
Sharon Lynn	Town of Provincetown
Kevin Black	Hyannis Fire District
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Suzanne Donahue	Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS)
Bill Rowbottom	Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS)
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan (THP)
Nina Conroy	Delta Dental of MA
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Noreen Mavro-Flanders, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

**Approval of the Minutes of the July 27, 2011 meeting:**

Skip Finnell motioned to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2011 meeting.

Motion

Dawn Rickman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Timing of Dependent Eligibility Audit - Update:**

Carol Cormier said that the Board approved a motion to allow the Steering Committee to move forward with a review of dependent eligibility audits and make a recommendation to the Board. Ms. Cormier said the new legislation is requiring that all governmental units conduct an independent eligibility audit every 2 years.

Ms. Cormier said that the Committee is recommending that the audit take place in the fall of 2012 and has asked GBS to develop an RFP.

**Municipal Health Reform Legislation:**

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said that the CCMHG Steering Committee has been holding additional meetings and inviting all interested parties to those meetings so that everyone will be well informed. Ms. Mavro-Flanders said if anyone was not receiving information, to contact Group Benefits Strategies. Ms. Mavro-Flanders said that they will make a recommendation to the Board at the October 5, 2011 Board Meeting.

Carol Cormier reviewed the benefit features and compared the current plans with the GIC benchmark plan, currently the Tufts Navigator plan. Ms. Cormier explained provider network tiering. She explained that the Cape and Island do not lend themselves to a tiered network system because there are not enough hospitals in the service areas. Ms. Cormier said that the Cape and Islands hospitals are on the GIC plans' highest co-pay

tiers. Ms. Cormier said that the Emergency Regulations for Ch. 32B Section 21, 22, and 23 included instructions about how to deal with this situation and allow using the tier 2 co-pay of the GIC benchmark plan.

Ms. Cormier said the Steering Committee will be recommending the plan design changes as outlined on the proposal, but changing the specialist visit to a \$35 co-pay, changing the inpatient admission deductible to \$500 for the HMO and PPO plans, changing the Master Medical co-pays and deductibles to be identical to the Master Health Plus plan and changing the Master Health Plus inpatient admission deductible to \$700. Ms. Cormier said that the Rate Saver plans have higher prescription drug co-pays than the GIC benchmark plan and said that the Committee will be recommending lowering them to the GIC level so that units can use Section 21 to bargain in the GIC-like plans.

Carol Cormier said that the claims decrements have been confirmed as final by the health plans for the plan design features described to date.

Skip Finnell said that the Committee will be hiring an independent third party actuary to review the plan changes and determine the expected savings.

BCBS & HPHC timetables regarding implementing plan design changes:

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said that the Committee asked the health plans for their timetable on implementing plan design changes. Ms. Mavro-Flanders said that the Section 21 process timeline could go to 124 days and said that the health plans will need at least 90 days to implement changes. She said she does not think January 1st will work well for employers or the Group.

Skip Finnell said in order to find out if the Board generally agrees with the direction the Steering Committee has been going in he was making a motion for a non-final vote to have CCMHG go to one menu of health plans effective July 1, 2012 through adopting the plan design changes indicated in gold on the charts that were distributed with the exceptions that the Specialist office visit co-pay will be \$35 instead of the \$30 and for Master Health Plus and Master Medical only, the hospital co-pay will be \$700 instead of \$500.

Motion
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Debra Blanchette seconded the motion. The motion passed 19 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said that there is a Section 21 implementation process timeline in the meeting packet created by Fallon Community Health Plan that is easy to understand.

Carol Cormier said that there are many notice requirements and all of the notices need to be sent by certified, return receipt mail. She said that the units do not need to adopt Section 21 until the Board takes its final vote, but noted that units could adopt the section before that if they choose. Ms. Cormier said that an analysis of the regulations by Attorney Paul Mulkern is in the meeting packet.

Ms. Cormier said that the rates will need to be set in January this year to be able to determine the estimate of savings by plan which the employers will use in their cost savings analyses. She said that each unit will need to put its enrollment information into the spreadsheet that Ms. Cormier and Rich Bienvenue are working on to be used by all units. Ms. Cormier advised employers to pay close attention to each requirement and noted that the Final Emergency Regulations are good for 90 days.

Skip Finnell said that the law, regulations and other helpful documents will be added to the CCMHG website soon.

Carol Cormier said that CCMHG offers myMedicationAdvisor®, where members can obtain generic prescriptions at \$0 copay, The Diabetes Rewards Program, where members can get their diabetic supplies and medications at no cost and Wellness Programs. She said that all of these can be used as part of the mitigation proposal.

There was a discussion about mitigation proposals.

**Letter for employers to use in implementing Ch.32B, new Section 18A – mandatory Medicare:**

Carol Cormier said that she wrote a letter that she will email to the Board for use in informing retirees about new Section 18A. Ms. Cormier said that the law went into effect on July 12 but does not specify a date by which employers must fully comply. She said the Medicare Part B late enrollment period is January 1 to March 31 each year with an effective date of July 1. Ms. Cormier said that Section 18A is mandatory and the letters should go out to retirees in time for them to be able to sign up during the Part B late enrollment period. Ms. Cormier said she would send information about setting up payment arrangements with Social Security/CMS to bill the employer directly for the late enrollment surcharges.

**Update on inquiry to Attorney General’s office regarding mandated benefits and self-funded municipal employers:**

Skip Finnell said that John Coughlin, Vice President, BCBS, wrote a letter on August 24<sup>th</sup> to Atty. General Martha Coakley following up to his letter of June 20<sup>th</sup> and Atty. Paul Mulkern’s letter dated July 12, 2011. He said that neither BCBS nor CCMHG has received a response yet.

**Health Plan Reports:**

Tufts Health Plan- Fred Winer said that the senior plan rates will be going down for CY12 and said that he will have more information at a future meeting.

Delta Dental of MA- Nina Conroy said that the student certifications have gone out to those that are age 19 to 22. She said that there is a September 30, 2011 term date for those that are not certified to be in school.

Blue Cross Blue Shield- Suzanne Donahue said that she hopes to have draft benefit summaries for the proposed plans by the next meeting. She said that there will be no student certifications sent out beginning this year and said that all young adults of members are covered to the 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Bill Rowbottom did not have anything new to report.

Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan – Bill Hickey said that HPHC is constantly working on the Federal and State Health Care Reform.

**Other Business:**

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said that the next Board meetings are scheduled on October 5, 2011 to be held at COMM Fire District at 9:30 a.m. The Board meeting previously scheduled on October 26, 2011 was cancelled. Ms. Mavro-Flanders said that the Steering Committee meeting on Martha’s Vineyard is scheduled for September 20, 2011 at the MV Transport Authority. She asked that when the meeting notice goes out, to respond if attending so that there will be enough packets and refreshments for all.

Carol Cormier said that the Board may want to postpone the visit by Andrew Dreyfus, BCBS until January, after the MA Health Care Reform Legislation issues have been voted on.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders agreed that Mr. Dreyfus should be invited to the January meeting.

There was no other business.

Gerry Panuczak made a motion to adjourn.

Motion
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Maggie Downey seconded the motion. Noreen Mavro-Flanders adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.