

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 23, 2008, 8:30 AM
Barnstable Town Hall
Barnstable, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (“CCMHG”) was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 8:30 AM at the Town of Barnstable Town Hall, Barnstable, MA. The following people attended the meeting:

Committee Members Present:

Bob Whritenour, Chair	Town of Falmouth
Noreen Mavro-Flanders	Duke’s County
Bob Canevazzi	Town of Dennis
Maggie Downey	Barnstable County
Gerry Panuczak	Town of Chatham
Marie Buckner	Town of Sandwich
David Withrow	Town of Orleans

Guests Present:

Richard Bienvenue, CPA	CCMHG Treasurer
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
Bob Sandborn	Cape Cod Technical High School
Nancy Geiger	Town of Chatham
Linda O’Brien	Town of Provincetown
Katherine Milligan	Town of Bourne
Suzanne Donahue	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Lenna Bablouzian	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Anne Boisvert	Delta Dental Plan of Massachusetts
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Bob Whritenour, Steering Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Carol Cormier introduced Karen Carpenter, the new GBS Account Representative.

Approval of the minutes of December 19, 2007:

Marie Buckner motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 19, 2007.

Motion

Maggie Downey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Richard Bienvenue said the Group was on target for using \$10 million for the year from the Fund Balance as planned.

Mr. Bienvenue said that he would give an update on the FY07 audit at the next meeting. He said there are some issues with the COBRA payments and the Medicare Part D subsidies.

Wellness Committee Report:

Maggie Downey reported on the HBCE Conference in Tampa, Florida at which she was a speaker regarding the CCMHG Wellness programs. She said this conference focuses on wellness programs for municipal employers. She said Marie Buckner attended as well, and the presentation was made jointly with The Abacus Group/myMedicationAdvisor®. Ms. Downey said she learned about some interesting programs that she would like to consider doing for the CCMHG such as newsletters for members, annual survey to employees to find out if the programming meets their needs, and programs with participation targeted to those at risk.. She mentioned City of Las Vegas’s Consumer Expense Accounts.

Maggie Downey said the HIP program has thirty-three participants registered with a possible additional five.

Towns applying for CCMHG membership:

Carol Cormier said BCBS had provided updated data on Town of Bourne and that the claims experience was much improved and risk was comparable to that of CCMHG. She said the Town of Bourne is also looking into MIIA and the GIC. She said the data from BCBS on Town of Harwich showed the town to be similar in cost per member to the CCMHG.

There was a discussion about terms of membership.

Ms. Cormier said that when other joint purchase groups have admitted new members, the new members did not participate in the fund balance for at least two years. She reviewed portions of the Joint Purchase Agreement.

Bob Whritenour said that the Committee should consider recommendations separately for Harwich and Bourne.

Marie Buckner asked about the CCMHG possibly becoming too big and problems with extending programs to additional communities.

It was noted that Harwich and Bourne are the only two towns on the Cape that do not belong to CCMHG.

Bob Canevazzi moved to recommend to the Board that Town of Harwich be offered membership in the CCMHG with an effective date of July 1, 2008 with a two-year waiting period for participation in the fund balance surplus.

Maggie Downey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion

Bob Whritenour said that since CCMHG will set its rates on February 27th, the towns would need to let the CCMHG know if they will join before the rates are established. He said that Bourne should commit by February 20th otherwise the effective date of membership would have to be moved back to October 1st.

Gerry Panuczak moved to recommend to the Board that Town of Bourne be offered membership in the CCMHG with the same conditions as for Town of Harwich but that notice of intent to join should be received from the Town by February 20th.

Motion

Bob Canevazzi seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

BCBS subsequently determined that inclusion of Harwich and Bourne would not impact the rates. Therefore, the February 20th deadline was withdrawn from the offer of membership.

GBS proposed contract:

Carol Cormier said that GBS CEO Jack Sharry had agreed to the CCMHG's request for 3% fee increases in each of the three years of the proposed agreement.

Bob Whritenour said that the proposed contract would be taken up at the next Steering Committee meeting.

FY09 rate projections - status:

Mr. Whritenour said that this would be discussed at the Board meeting.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Bob Whritenour adjourned the meeting at about 9:35 AM.

*Prepared by Carol Cormier
Group Benefits Strategies*