

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

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 10:00 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, October 22, 2008 at 8:35 AM 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
Margaret Downey	Barnstable County
David Withrow	Town of Orleans
A. Francis (“Skip”) Finnell	Dennis-Yarmouth RSD
Marie Buckner	Town of Sandwich
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
Gerry Panuczak	Town of Chatham

**Guests Present:**

Susan Milne	Town of Yarmouth
Janet Farrell	EyeMed Vision Care
Suzanne Donahue	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBS)
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Noreen Mavro-Flanders, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Approval of the minutes of the September 10, 2008 Steering Committee meeting:**

Dave Withrow said that a change needed to be made to page 5 where “Bob Withrow” is named instead of “Bob Whritenour”.

Skip Finnell motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2008 as corrected.

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

Motion

**Election of Officers:**

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said that there were originally two Board members interested in filling the Steering Committee vacancy, but said that one has withdrawn. Ms. Mavro-Flanders said that Sue Milne from the Town of Yarmouth has expressed an interest in filling the vacant seat.

Carol Cormier said that there is also a CCMHG Board Vice Chair vacancy which needs to be filled.

Dave Withrow expressed an interest in the position but had reservations about the time commitment.

There was a discussion.

Skip Finnell made a motion to recommend to the Board that Dave Withrow be nominated to fill the vacancy of the CCMHG Board Vice Chair position.

Motion

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

Skip Finnell made a motion to recommend to the Board that Sue Milne be nominated to fill the vacancy of the CCMHG Steering Committee position.

Motion

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

**Voluntary Vision Plan – Revised Proposal:**

Janet Farrell, Regional Sales Manager for EyeMed Vision Care, reviewed the EyeMed revised proposal and said that the proposal now included standard progressive lenses in the rates. Ms. Farrell said that the proposal includes a four year rate guarantee with a fifth year rate cap of five percent. Ms. Farrell reviewed the benefit design.

Bob Whritenour joined the meeting at this time.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders asked how the EyeMed vision plan would interface with the health plan's vision benefit.

Skip Finnell asked if there were any overlap with the health plan's vision benefit.

Carol Cormier said that there would be an overlap with the eye exam.

Janet Farrell said that there is no coordination of benefits with the health plans.

Bill Hickey said that a member could use the Harvard Pilgrim eyewear tower to purchase a second pair of eyeglasses at no cost compared to the forty percent discount offered by EyeMed for a second pair.

Bob Whritenour said that there will need to be communications to educate the employees on the differences between the EyeMed vision plan and the health plan vision benefit.

Maggie Downey suggested that the Benefit Administrator's Meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> would be an ideal time to communicate the vision plan and asked if Janet Farrell would be able to attend.

Janet Farrell confirmed that she would be available to speak at the meeting.

Carol Cormier said she would work with the health and vision plan representatives to put a comparison chart together for the employees and benefit administrators.

Gerry Panuczak said that one of the struggles that the Steering Committee had while making the decision to choose a vision plan provider was that of the varying networks, and he asked if EyeMed would recruit providers.

Janet Farrell said that EyeMed can recruit but stated that some private practice physicians will not accept EyeMed because its reimbursement schedule is lower than some of the other vision plans.

Dave Withrow asked the approximate time it requires to recruit a new provider.

Janet Farrell said the usual time is about three months.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders requested that Ms. Farrell/EyeMed begin the recruitment process during the implementation process.

Bob Whritenour said he is very impressed with the EyeMed vision plan but reiterated that the provider base needs to be worked on.

Carol Cormier said that she updated the VSP comparison chart with updates sent by Janet Farrell. She noted that the Davis plan has an eyewear tower and glasses from the tower are at no cost to the member.

Janet Farrell said that the VSP representative used high-end lenses and premium options for the comparison. Ms. Farrell said that there are many standard comparable options available which would result in a lower cost to the member. Ms. Farrell said she will bring an EyeMed comparison chart to the November meeting which will show savings.

**“Rate Saver” Plans:**

Carol Cormier re-emphasized the flexibility for the employers and that the Joint Purchase Agreement (JPA) would need to be modified. Ms. Cormier said that she would bring an example of modified language to the next Steering Committee meeting.

Ms. Cormier later realized that the CCMHG JPA would not need to be modified
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Skip Finnell asked if there would be any other issues.

Carol Cormier said the Board vote is all that will be necessary. Ms. Cormier suggested that the Steering Committee recommend to the Board members that they to inform their Chief Executive Officers and elected Boards of what is happening with the plans.

**Promoting Adoption of Ch.32B, Section 18:**

Bob Whritenour said that the Steering Committee was going to draft handouts of information for Section 18 to be provided to each unit.

Carol Cormier said she sent out an email to the Committee regarding dates for a meeting on Section 18 and she did not get any response. Ms. Cormier said she has been invited to attend several retiree meetings to discuss Section 18.

Bob Whritenour said the Steering Committee was going to continue with communications before moving forward. Mr. Whritenour said they would bring the discussion to the Board.

Mr. Whritenour said he would like to set up meetings in Falmouth.

There was no other business.

Bob Whritenour adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter  
Group Benefits Strategies*