

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

**Steering Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 9:00 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, April 12, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the COMM Fire District, Centerville, MA. The following people attended:

**Steering Committee Members Present:**

Skip Finnell, Steering Committee Chair	Dennis-Yarmouth RSD
Noreen Mavro-Flanders, Board Chair	Dukes County
Denise Coleman	Town of Falmouth
Erin Orcutt	Cape Cod Technical High School
Christopher Clark	Town of Harwich
Marie Buckner	Town of Sandwich
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
John Kelly	Town of Orleans
Deb Heemsoth	Town of Dennis

**Guests Present:**

Mike Follick	Abacus Solutions
Linda Loiselle	Abacus Solutions
Joe Wroblewski	Abacus Solutions
Amanda Adams	Abacus Solutions
Margaret Downey	Cape Cod Light Compact
Briana Kane	Cape Cod Light Compact
Paul Medeiros	Hyannis Fire Dept.
Kathy Logue	West Tisbury
William Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Garbrielle Pitcher	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)
William Rowbottom	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan – Senior Products
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Skip Finnell, Steering Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**Approval of minutes of the March 15, 2017 Steering Committee meetings:**

Erin Orcutt moved to approve the March 15<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended.

Motion

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

**Alternative Rx purchasing program – possible contract and/or program changes, Representatives from Abacus/PBS:**

Skip Finnell said Abacus Health Solutions/ Prescription Benefits Services (PBS) proposed a specialty prescription drug program to some of the Joint Purchase Groups. Mr. Finnell said the WSHG, MNHG and CCMHG began to look at the pricing of the myMedicationAdvisor® program and considered hiring an independent auditor to review the prescription drug program and reported savings. He said the Berkshire

Health Group contacted CanaRx, the agent for the individual members purchase of prescription drugs in the CCMHG's program, to inquire about members purchasing medications directly through CanaRx. Mr. Finnell said this resulted in CCMHG taking a closer look at the services that Abacus provides versus CanaRx. Mr. Finnell introduced Mike Follick, President and CEO of Abacus Health Solutions and Prescription Benefits Services.

Mike Follick thanked the Steering Committee for the opportunity to speak about Abacus's value proposition. He said the 4 components of the proposition are Safety, Liability, Security and Savings. He said Abacus has been remiss in presenting only the financial reports regularly to CCMHG. Mr. Follick said Abacus is much more than that, and he introduced who would be speaking, Joe Wroblewski, Linda Loiselle and Amanda Adams, pharmacist.

Linda Loiselle said the CCMHG's myMedicationAdvisor® (MMA) program was launched in 2005 and said safety was the first concern. She explained about Abacus's oversight to improve medication safety, including a clinical pharmacist quarterly review of all medications, exclusion of medications where there is potential for abuse, confusion or over/under dosing, and review of any changes in source countries to ensure the medications are appropriate for importation. Ms. Loiselle also spoke about the MMA website and its "ask-a-pharmacist" and active clinical pharmacist outreach to members and providers.

Amanda Adams, pharmacist said a more proactive approach is necessary when dealing with specialty medications. She said outreach to members is important to be sure they know how to take the medication, store it, side effects, etc.

Mike Follick said when crossing into specialty medications, there are additional risks. He said Abacus has built algorithms into its systems and also feeds the user information back to the carriers.

Mr. Follick explained that when the structure was first set up, CCMHG contracted with Prescription Benefits Services (PBS). He said if the program is changed to buy direct from CanaRx, it will create a different line of exposure, risk and liability. Mr. Follick said that is why when the owner of PBS passed away, Abacus was compelled to pick up the PBS piece.

Joe Wroblewski spoke about the security component, which included being HIPAA compliant, having cybersecurity insurance coverage and being a Microsoft Certified Partner. He said in order to maximize savings, Abacus completes a drug-by-drug comparison between the health plan PBMs and CanaRx, blind pricing comparisons and also transparency of pricing with the MMA fees specified. He also noted that CCMHG receives a multi-program discount.

Mike Follick noted that of the 480 medications on the CanaRx list, 240 are irrelevant since there are no CCMHG members taking those drugs. He said Abacus mines the data and provides clinical improvements.

Linda Loiselle spoke about the Abacus program promotions and oversight services to include mediation and resolution of customer service issues, rate setting projections, quarterly penetration analysis and budget forecasting. She said over the past 9 years, the MMA participation has been consistent and the program savings have grown and there has never had a safety problem or issue.

There were a couple of questions asked and answered, and the Committee thanked the representatives from Abacus for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Carol Cormier said there is no doubt that Abacus provides excellent service to its clients and program members. She noted that the MMA website has more information for members than CanaRx. She said it is her job as consultant to bring information to the Committee and Board and noted that GBS has no stake in whatever decision CCMHG makes on this matter.

Skip Finnell said the topic came up when the new contract was proposed for specialty medication.

There was a discussion and the Committee agreed to ask CanaRx to come to the next meeting to present information about their services before making a decision. It was noted that the current Agreement with Abacus/PBS has a 90-day prior notice for termination.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said it is the goal of CCMHG to get the best program value and safety for its members.

**Employer obligations regarding HSA contributions for employees and retirees – legal opinion. Vote on pro-rating HSA contributions for new hires and other possible exceptions:**

Carol Cormier said she received the legal opinion from Attorney Leo Peloquin regarding whether or not an employer must contribute the same amount to a non-Medicare eligible retiree’s HSA as it contributes to the HSA of an employee. She referred to Atty. Peloquin’s opinion letter in the packet which says that there is no requirement to contribute the same amount or anything at all to HSAs of retirees. She suggested clarifying the Board’s vote to specify the contribution is to employees only and to leave it up to each employer as to whether or not it wants to contribute to HSAs of early retirees.

Ms. Cormier also said employers may pro-rate the contribution for new hires.

It was agreed that a Steering Committee member would make a motion at the Board meeting to clarify the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board vote requiring employers offering plans with HSAs to contribute 50% of the deductible to the HSAs. The motion would clarify that the requirement applies only to HSAs held by active employees and that employers would not have to contribute to HSAs held by non-active employees and spouses of employees or former employees.

Paul Medeiros asked to speak and said if there are too many exceptions and limits, enrollment into the high deductible plans will be low. He said incentives will help with the start up.

Carol Cormier said she doesn’t think early retirees will be that interested in these plans since there would be a shorter time for them to grow the account and that the IRS does not require employers to make contributions to HSAs in general.

**Request for CCMHG membership from Cape Light Compact:**

Maggie Downey said that the municipal aggregator formed in 1997. She said Barnstable County decided to pursue a joint power agreement and 14 towns of 21 have voted that Cape Light will be a separate unit. Ms. Downey said all of the 16 employees who will be Compact employees, are already enrolled and part of CCMHG and the unit will also offer all of the CCMHG plans. Ms. Downey asked the Committee to consider their request to join CCMHG.

Christopher Clark made a motion to recommend to the Board to allow Cape Light Compact to join CCMHG.

Erin Orcutt seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Motion
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**Request for CCMHG membership from Greater Attleboro and Taunton RTA (GATRA):**

Carol Cormier referred to the request letter from GATRA included in the meeting packet.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said she is inclined to not be in favor of offering an off-Cape governmental unit membership in CCMHG. She said they would not be geographically close to be able participate in the wellness programs and would be similar to that of a step-child member.

There was a discussion and Noreen Mavro-Flanders made a motion to deny GATRA's request for membership in CCMHG.

Motion

Debra Blanchette seconded the motion. The motion passed by a majority vote, with one abstention.

**Cape Cod Healthcare (CCHC) Update:**

Carol Cormier said she sent an update from Chris Brown, Vice President, CCHC, to the Committee for their review and included that email in the meeting packets.

**Other Business:**

Carol Cormier said the Committee had agreed at a past meeting to recommend adding a fitness benefit to the Medex plan, but said about it had not been brought forward for a vote.

Erin Orcutt made a motion to add a \$150 fitness reimbursement benefit to the BCBS Medex plan effective July 1, 2017.

Motion

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

There was no further business.

Chris Clark moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion

Erin Orcutt seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Skip Finnell adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter  
Group Benefits Strategies*