

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

Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 9:00 AM
Martha's Vineyard Regional Transit Authority Offices
Edgartown, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group ("CCMHG") was held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 10:00 AM at Barnstable Town Hall, Hyannis, MA.

The following people attended:

Steering Committee Members Present:

Skip Finnell, Steering Committee Chair	Dennis-Yarmouth RSD
Noreen Mavro-Flanders	County of Dukes County
Christopher Clark	Town of Harwich
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
Denise Coleman	Town of Falmouth
Susan Wallen	Nauset RSD

Guests Present:

Marta Azzolini	Asst. Martha's Vineyard Wellness Coordinator
Bob Whritenour	Town of Oak Bluffs
Tim Carroll	Town of Chilmark
Jon Snyder	Town of Tisbury
Pam Bennett	Town of Tisbury
Lauren Thomas	Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority
Beth Kachka	Dukes County
Kathy Logue	Town of West Tisbury
Joan Chavez	Town of West Tisbury
Jody Hoffmann	Town of Provincetown
Patricia Joyce	Abacus Health Solutions
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Chris Nunnally	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Skip Finnell, Steering Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Mr. Finnell said that the Committee would go over some of the items that were discussed at the last meeting so that the attendees would be informed of the projects CCMHG is working on. He said that at the last meeting on the Cape, Benefits Administrators were asked for input on how to better get the word out about CCMHG and how to promote the programs. He said that the benefits administrators gave the Committee good information and suggestions. He said that today the Benefits Administrators on the Vineyard will be asked for their input.

Approval of minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting:

Noreen Mavro-Flanders moved approval of the September 26th Steering Committee meeting minutes.

Motion

Chris Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote, with one abstention.

Investment Committee Report:

Skip Finnell said that the Treasurer’s report as of June 30, 2018 was presented by the Treasurer, Rich Bienvenue, at the September 26th Steering Committee meeting. He said the Balance Sheet of June 30, 2018 was in the packet and indicated a very healthy Fund Balance.

Deb Blanchette, Investment Committee Chair, said that the next meeting will be held on October 19 at the Barnstable School Administration meeting.

Vineyard Wellness Program report:

Marta Azzolini, Asst. Wellness Coordinator for the Vineyard, said she was filling in for Krystle Rose. She reported on the Vineyard wellness programs.

GBS reports:

Carol Cormier reviewed the Funding Rate Analysis (FRA) report through August and said the expense-to-funding ratio on a paid claims basis was 81.8% for the health plans and 87.3% for the dental plans. She said regarding the Enrollment Report that HSAQ plan enrollments were up to 5.3% of active plan enrollments. She said GBS has joint purchase group clients with employers that use electronic enrollment systems that encompass all or most employee benefits. She said that any employers considering doing this should discuss their plans with GBS to make sure that systems are compatible with the way GBS processes enrollments for CCMHG.

Karen Carpenter said that there were no updates to the reinsurance report since the meeting on Sept. 26.

Abacus report:

Patty Joyce, Abacus, reviewed the 2-month Diabetes Rewards Program spending report. She said that the Fall flyers were mailed out to members.

There were questions about participation in the Diabetes Program. Patty Joyce said she would look into percent enrollment from the Vineyard vs. the Cape.

CY19 Senior Plan rates:

Skip Finnell said that the proposed CY19 Senior Plan rates are in an exhibit in the meeting packet. He said at the last meeting the Committee voted to recommend all of the rates to the Board with the exception of the fully insured Medicare HMO Blue rate.

Christopher Clark motioned to recommend to the Board the CY19 Medicare HMO Blue rate from BCBSMA of \$393.46, a 3.5% increase.

Motion

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

Carol Cormier said that Bill Hickey was successful in getting Harvard Pilgrim to reduce its CY19 administrative fee increase for the Medicare Enhance plan from the 2.5% originally proposed to a 1% increase.

Mr. Finnell said that the rate recommendations will be presented to the Board for a vote at its October 24th meeting.

Dependent Eligibility Audit:

Carol Cormier said that GBS issued an RFP for dependent eligibility auditing for CCMHG. She said that two companies, HMS and GBS, responded. She said HMS performed the last audit for CCMHG six years ago. She said that GBS has done the audits for most of the other joint purchase groups but said that CCMHG is considerably larger than the others. She reviewed differences in the approaches of the two companies, noting that HMS has a fully electronic audit and has performed some very large audits of Mass. governmental and public sector employers and employer groups. She said HMS clarified that it will be able to provide reporting on an employer-specific basis but would not be able to return all the documents from employees to each employer. She said HMS would provide a single file with all of the documents. She said unlike GBS, HMS will not provide legal opinions but said the CCMHG could seek such opinions on its own.

Chris Clark motioned to recommend to the Board that the dependent eligibility audit be awarded to HMS.

Denise Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion

Dental Plan RFQ:

Skip Finnell said that a volunteer subcommittee will review the six responses to the RFQ on Nov. 2nd.

Carol Cormier said that the Contributory and the Voluntary Dental plans are both self-funded so the pricing proposed is for the administrative fees which are only about 5% or less of the plan expenses. Ms. Cormier said that she asked each vendor for its pricing for the top ten dental procedures. She said she totaled the costs for each service for each vendor in order to compare their provider pricing. She noted that only two vendors have negotiated fees for providers not participating in the PPO plans. She said since most of the CCMHG's utilization is with non-PPO providers, these two vendors provide the lowest expected claims costs and have no balance billing for members. She said all the dental carriers recommended a passive PPO arrangement which would not change or limit access for members but would result in better pricing when they go to dentists participating in the PPOs.

Prescription Drug Carveout:

Ms. Cormier said that GBS has partnered with PBIRx a pharmacy consulting firm to explore and analyze *pros* and *cons* of carving out prescription drugs from the health plans. She said currently BCBSMA and HPHC each contracts with a Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) to provide the prescription drug programs. She said with an Rx carveout arrangement CCMHG would contract directly with a PBM. She said that there are savings associated with this type of arrangement, and there does not need to be any changes to plan design. She said that Chris Nunnally, GBS, has worked with Cities of Fall River and Lynn which have adopted Rx carveout programs.

Mr. Nunnally talked about savings from Rx carveout. He said the member would get two cards, a medical ID card and a pharmacy ID card.

Ms. Cormier said that the CCMHG received a legal opinion saying that since there are no plan design changes, employers would not be required to collectively bargain the change to an Rx carveout program.

Marketing CCMHG and its programs:

Skip Finnell asked for concerns, comments, and suggestions from Benefits Administrators on how to get the word out to employees about CCMHG to make it easier to communicate information about programs to the employees. He said that Chris Clark had suggested that when employees go to the computer every other year to take the State ethics exam, they could be required to go through a program on the computer about the CCMHG and its programs.

Bill Hickey noted that the health plan representatives go to areas convenient to CCMHG employers and their employees to present information each year at open enrollment time. He noted that the GIC goes to one area for all employees in that area.

Bob Whritenour said it's important to get information to the employees about the fact that CCMHG is self-insured as well as other information they need to make better decisions.

Tim Carroll said he favors a document or packet that provides information about all the programs in one place.

Chris Nunnally suggested having benefits educators who meet with employees one on one. He said that there are companies that provide this service and that he could look into that for CCMHG.

Tim Carroll and Jody Hoffman said that they would like a comparison of the regular deductible plans with the HSA-Qualified High Deductible Health Plans (HSAQs).

Susan Wallen talked about the one-pager she created for her employees listing all the programs and referring them to the CCMHG website and other sites for more information followed by a meeting with HR to answer questions.

Skip Finnell thanked meeting participants for their input.

Health Plan reports:

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC) – Bill Hickey said that HPHC has a program similar to the BCBS's Smart Shopper program that was presented at the Sept. meeting. He distributed information to the Committee. He said the employer is charged a per employee per month fee. He said he will speak further about this if the CCMHG is interested.

Tufts Health Plan Senior products – Fred Winer said he had nothing new to report.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Chris Clark moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion

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

Steering Committee Chair Skip Finnell adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM

*Minutes prepared by Carol Cormier
Group Benefits Strategies*