

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

Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 9:00 AM

**Martha's Vineyard Regional Transit Authority Bldg.
11 A St Airport Business Park
Edgartown, MA 02539**

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group ("CCMHG") was held on September 21, 2022 at 9:00 AM at the Martha's Vineyard Regional Transit Authority Bldg., Edgartown, MA.

Steering Committee members present:

A. Francis ("Skip") Finnell, Steering Committee Chair	Dennis-Yarmouth RSD
Noreen Mavro-Flanders, Board Chair	County of Dukes County
Debra Blanchette	Town of Barnstable
Erin Orcutt	Cape Cod Regional Tech
Laurie Barr	Town of Eastham
Michael MacMillan	Monomoy RSD
Susan Wallen	Nauset RSD
Robert Whritenour	Town of Yarmouth

Guests Present:

Rich Bienvenue, CPA	CCMHG Treasurer
Deanna Desroches	CCMHG Wellness Consultant (Mainland)
Triva Emery	CCMHG Wellness Consultant (Vineyard)
Kathy Logue	Town of West Tisbury
Pamela Bennett	Town of Tisbury
Robert Knowles	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)
Caroline Burnham	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)
Julie Scansaroli	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)
Lauren McCallum	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (retired)
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Bob Kademian, RPh	PBIRx
Jim Riley	CanaRx
Patty Joyce	Abacus Health Solutions
Joseph Anderson	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)
Marianna Gil	Gallagher Benefit Services Inc. (GBS)
Karen Quinlivan	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS)
Carol Cormier	Gallagher Benefit Services Inc. (GBS) (retired)

Skip Finnell, Steering Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

Robert Whritenour said that Bill Hickey has been with the group for very many years and Harvard Pilgrim has been a staple program for the group and Bill has done a tremendous job and been a highly professional account representative for the group. He thanked Bill for his enormous contribution over the years and wished him the best in his retirement.

Bill Hickey said the group will be in wonderful hands with Lauren McCallum.

Approval of Minutes of the July 20, 2022, 2022 Steering Committee Meeting:

Motion

Noreen Mavro-Flanders motioned to approve the minutes of July 20, 2022 as presented.

Debra Blanchette seconded the motion.

The motion passed by majority vote. Erin Orcutt abstained.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Richard Bienvenue, CPA reviewed the financial reports of June 30, 2022 (unaudited figures). Mr. Bienvenue provided a brief overview of the financial position. The beginning fund balance as of July 1, 2022 was \$59.5M. Current year to date has showed a loss of just over \$18.3M. The December premium holiday accounted for over \$13M and the remaining loss is not unexpected given the degree of rate subsidy set at renewal. The total equity at the end of June is \$41.1M which represents 27.5% of claims. There was a loss in the investment fund which accounted for the remaining loss. Essentially it was a break- even year. The groups intention of spending down balance was realized when it set rates. The IBNR estimate will be determined with the runout of claims through October. His sense that it is a bit high and that will improve the bottom line. The MMRA premiums paid in prior years also has a surplus which is an asset to the group. The dental fund had earnings of \$478,000 for an ending balance of \$8.6M.

Bob Whritenour said the dental benefit maximum will increase to \$1,500 largely because of that healthy fund balance.

Mr. Bienvenue said the audit will begin shortly for a final report in January. There is also still corrections that will need to be made for errors the premium holiday created. The biggest issues have been resolved but the units need to remember to pay as billed.

Wellness Reports:

Vineyard Wellness Report - Triva Emery said that programming is reaching a lot of newly retired members through word of mouth and recent emails from municipal departments. It was a great summer. Programs such as Pickle Ball, Tennis, Fly Fishing and Sunset and Full moon kayaking tours were very popular. Mindful Movement will be returning in October. Discussions are ongoing with local partners to offer beginners weight training, boxing and nutrition workshops. Fitness classes continue to have strong attendance and are year round.

Mainland Wellness Report – Deanna Desroches said that constant contact is now used for all communications. The monthly newsletter is beginning since the quarterly is so large. The quarterly will resume after the New Year. Financial wellness program on first time home buying had 22 people attend. December is End of life Affairs which will be a hybrid workshop at the Compact. The six week Financial Wellness Series: Financial Health in 2023 will begin on January 10 and run every other week. Saturday morning walks in Yarmouth began on September 10th and will continue if there is enough participation. Hiking will begin for eight weeks at various locations on the Cape Sunday mornings beginning in October. Programs in the works are self-defense and mindful resilience yoga for first responders. There are 791 members registered on the portal with 158 members receiving \$35 gift cards. Four members also received an additional \$200. There have already

been 110 health assessments done. Senior benefits fairs will begin in November. Cape Cod Regional Tech in Harwich has a new building with beautiful kitchens. Erin Orcutt arranged to have the group be able to use the kitchens for some learn to cook seminars.

GBS Reports:

Joseph Anderson reviewed the *FY22 Funding Rate Analysis (FRA) report* with data through June 30, 2022 (paid claims basis). The composite expense-to-funding ratio was 109.10%. This was anticipated because of the Premium Holiday in December and the underfunded rates. The estimated Funding Deficit was \$12,654,937 for the prior 12 months. Dental expense-to-funding ratio was 87.8%. The same FY23 report through July shows a composite expense-to funding ratio of 82.6%. The estimated funding surplus was \$2,185,590. It was an active month. There were \$1.6M in reinsurance receivables and a pharmacy rebate applied to Network Blue. There appears to be trend of resumption to normal claims with some volatility. The Dental expense-to funding ratio was 91.0%.

Karen Quinlivan reviewed the *Reinsurance reports*. She said the FY21 policy period through June 2022 had 25 claimants with total claims in excess of the \$300K specific deductible of \$4,307,080. Total reimbursements of \$4,359,406 have been received to date with an overpayment credit of \$89,894.97. She said that there are 62 claimants on the 50% Report with claims totaling \$12,163,678. For the FY22 period through June there were 18 claimants with total claims in excess of the \$400K specific deductible of \$2,583,225. Total reimbursements of \$11,463.67 have been received to date with an outstanding reimbursement balance due of \$2,571,781.52. She said that there are 44 claimants on the 50% Report with claims totaling \$12,289,645. For the FY22 period through July there were 19 claimants with total claims in excess of the \$400K specific deductible of \$2,928,368. Total reimbursements of \$1,638,402 have been received to date with an outstanding reimbursement balance due of \$1,289,966. She said that there are 46 claimants on the 50% Report with claims totaling \$13,007,232.

PBIRx report:

Bob Kademian, RPh from PBIRx provided reporting through the month of June. He said that the combined estimated per member per month prescription drug costs including Rx rebates were \$132.49 last year and \$154.84 this year. The increase was 16.86%. Traditional drug costs were up 6.38% while specialty med costs were up 24.21%. Blue Cross Rx costs were up 16.86% net of rebates, and Harvard Pilgrim costs were up 14.81% versus last year. Increased utilization of specialty drugs is up 24%. PillarRx should help with that.

Noreen Mavro-Flanders said that the next meeting will include elections. With the retirement of Skip Finnell, the Board will need to be notified that there is a need for Steering Committee members. After the business for the October 19th meeting, there will be a need to elect a new chair.

Health Plan/vendor reports:

Blue Cross – Carli Burnham said that she had an update on the BCBS Pillar Rx program. Of the 123 eligible members, 24 are enrolled, 87 have been left phone messages, 3 are no longer taking the medication and 9 still need to be reached. Blue Cross will continue to reach out to get members enrolled.

Robert Knowles said that there will be member mailings going out in October that will highlight member impacts of the PBM change. There are currently 876 members that use mail order. All info will be transferred in October over to CVS Caremark. Credit card info can't transfer over. Two members utilize a pharmacy that needs to change. Five members will have medical exclusions that will require a doctor to request an exception or move to a generic equivalent. Under ACA, 276 members fall into the category of generic over the counter medications that will need to find another over the counter medication. There are 91 members on the Smart 90 program that they can get a 90 day supply of meds at zero copay. They will move to the CVS Maintenance

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Choice Program. Phone lines will be manned over the holiday weekend and new cards will be issued. They will go out 10 days prior to January 1st. The recommendation is to refill prior to January 1st for maintenance medications if possible.

Harvard Pilgrim- Lauren McCallum said that at the last meeting she spoke about the Travel Reimbursement Benefit that Harvard Pilgrim has made available to the fully insured accounts. It pertains to abortion or gender affirming benefits that people may need to travel for if it is not offered due to state or federal laws. The self-insured population has the option to offer it retroactively to June 1st or for a future date. An estimate on the full book of business is about 10cents per member per month. There is no administrative cost to add it.

There was discussion regarding a recommendation to add it. The decision was to study cost impacts and experience of this issue and keep it on the agenda for future discussion. In the commercial space, the Tufts brand will be sunsetted at the end of 2024.

Tufts - Fred Winer said that the Tufts and Harvard Pilgrim plans will become one at some point. Tufts will change to Optum for the PBM as of 01/01/2023. Nothing will be changing for the senior side for several years.

Abacus- Patty Joyce said that the group is due for the annual report in October but she will be traveling for work. Another colleague will perhaps present or she will present at the November Steering Committee. The group continues to have good participation with 34% engaged and over 40% adherent. There is a mailer going out for a \$75 registration incentive. November is Diabetes Awareness month so flyers will be going out to all about that.

CanaRx- Jim Riley said that the savings for the group is trending around \$40,000 a month savings. That would trend to \$485,000 annual savings. Analysis reveals that there is an additional \$2.75M in savings for the group. Strategies are being implemented find out why people may resist CanaRx and working to incentivize them. Post card mailings can be tracked for website traffic to see what approaches may work best. Better communications are being developed for Benefit Administrators to use to drive utilization as well.

Other Business:

The next Steering Committee meetings were set for November 16, 2022 at 9:00 AM. and December 14, 2022 at 9:00 AM. The location is yet to be determined to see if a hybrid location is available.

Kathy Logue said that John Snyder in Tisbury brought up an enrollment issue for a member that was in the military and left in May. They were told they could continue for extended 6 month coverage through the military but needed to enroll. The enrollment never happened and the 60 day enrollment period for Tisbury had then expired. They are asking for an exception for enrollment.

Skip Finnell said that The Steering Committee has a history of not interfering in these issues or granting exceptions. It would set a precedence and the responsibility really belonged to the employee. Stop Loss carriers could look at eligibility if an exception was made as well.

There was no other business.

Erin Orcutt motioned to adjourn.

Motion

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Noreen Mavro-Flanders seconded the motion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chair, Skip Finnell, adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.

*Minutes prepared by Karen Quinlivan
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.*