

MINUTEMAN NASHOBA HEALTH GROUP

Steering Committee Meeting

Harvard Town Hall
Harvard, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Tony Logalbo, Chairman
Pauline Paste
M. Lawrence Barton
Paul Cohen
Carol Vogel
David Desgroseilliers

Town of Concord
Lincoln Sudbury Reg. School District
Town of Carlisle
Town of Harvard
Town of Stow
Town of Tyngsborough

Guests Present:

Anne-Marie O'Brien
Richard Thatcher
Carol Cormier

Prescription Benefits Services
The Abacus Group
Group Benefits Strategies

Chair Tony Logalbo called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2004:

Larry Barton moved to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2004 meeting as written.

Carol Vogel seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion

Group Benefits Strategies Reports:

Harvard Pilgrim Level Monthly Accounting - Carol Cormier reviewed the report for months October and November 2004 comparing the level monthly payments to the actual costs for the HPHC plans. Ms. Cormier said that the Group had a \$365,312 debit balance.

Funding Rate Analysis by Plan – Carol Cormier reviewed the report for with data through November 2004. She said that across all plans the ratio of expenses to funding was 89.8%. She said that the only plan with a funding deficit is HPHC PPO plan. She said that the excess of funding over expenses on a paid basis for the six-months was just over \$1 million.

Stop Loss Reports –

Policy period CY2004: Ms. Cormier said that in calendar year 2004 there was only one claimant to date with claims exceeding the \$150K deductible. She said excess claims of \$66,424 are being applied to the \$100K aggregating specific deductible. She said that there were seven members with claims between 50% and 100% of the deductible with claims totaling \$666,551.

Policy Period CY2003: Ms. Cormier said that there was one claimant with claims exceeding the \$150K deductible by \$14,625. She said that \$13,510 had been reimbursed and that there was \$1,115 in outstanding reimbursements. She said there had been eight claimants with claims between 50% and 100% of the deductible with claims totaling \$784,011.

Presentation by The Abacus Group on prescription drug education and alternative source purchasing of prescription drugs:

Carol Cormier introduced Anne O'Brien of Prescription Benefits Services (PBS) and Rick Thatcher of The Abacus Group/myMedicationAdvisor. She provided some background information on the companies.

Anne O'Brien explained the role that PBS would play as intermediary if the Group decided it wanted to offer a Canadian prescription drug purchasing option for employees.

Rick Thatcher gave a presentation explaining the myMedicationAdvisor program as well as MyHealthMaxizer and Heart Age. He explained how the design features of myMedicationAdvisor can help to control pharmacy costs and enhance the effectiveness of the pharmacy benefit.

The Committee asked Mr. Thatcher and Ms. O'Brien to present a preliminary estimate of savings and a program proposal.

Mr. Thatcher said that he could get a proposal to the Group in the next week.

Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Thatcher left the meeting at this time.

The Committee agreed to take this matter up at its next Steering Committee meeting.

Application for Membership:

Carol Cormier said that the letter from Narragansett Regional School District requesting consideration for membership in MNHG was in the Committee packet. Ms. Cormier said that GBS would work an analysis into the rate setting process.

Larry Barton asked about the application process. There was a brief discussion.

There was a discussion about other potential members.

Strategic Planning:

Pauline Paste said that the health plans are supposed to present a list of any benefit updates on their standard plans in January so that MNHG can compare its offerings to the general marketplace offerings.

Carol Cormier said she would ask the health plans for this information.

Larry Barton asked about joint purchasing other insurance products such as dental and disability.

Ms. Cormier explained what other joint purchase groups were doing about dental and disability.

There was a discussion about considering benefit changes.

Ms. Cormier said that she thought there was not much point in tinkering around with co-pays given the collective bargaining requirements. She said she thought that the MNHG should learn about the consumer-driven health plans to see if they might be viable optional health plan offerings.

The Committee agreed that it would like to hear about the Tufts Liberty plan at its March meeting.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Chair Tony Logalbo adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.