

MINUTEMAN NASHOBA HEALTH GROUP

Steering Committee Meeting

Groton Town Hall
Groton, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 9:15 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Valerie Jenkins, Chair
Jerry Martin, Vice Chair
M. Larry Barton
Margaret Dennehy
John Flaherty
Judy Belliveau

Town of Groton
No. Middlesex Regional School District
Town of Carlisle
Town of Boxborough
Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District

Guests Present:

Bill Hickey
Matt Shields
Carol Cormier
Lisa Trombly

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Tufts Health Plan (THP)
Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Chair Valerie Jenkins called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2007 meeting:

Larry Barton moved to approve the Steering Committee minutes of the meeting of January 23, 2007.

John Flaherty seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous approval.

Motion

myMedicationAdvisor®:

Judy Belliveau said she was interested to see what caused the increase in participation with myMedicationAdvisor®.

Carol Cormier said she would check with Heidi Steinitz about the cause of the increase. She said it could be the marketing material or informational sessions that are going on.

Valerie Jenkins said the Town of Groton held an informational session a few months ago but that there was very low turnout for it.

Carol Cormier said it could also be the alternative generic portion of the program that is drawing interest.

Valerie Jenkins asked how the website revision was coming along.

Lisa Trombly said the revision is complete and the site is ready to be reviewed.

Ms. Jenkins asked the Steering Committee members to review the site when they had a chance.

FY08 Rates:

Carol Cormier reviewed the Scenarios outlined in the packet. She adjusted Scenario B to include 3 different versions.

There was a discussion regarding Fallon claims.

Larry Barton said that based on the GBS projections, which he accepted, he would have to lean toward a 15% increase. He said it seems like the larger the PPO and POS membership gets, the higher the premium goes.

Carol Cormier said the increase for the PPO and POS were set based on the instructions of the Steering Committee at the last meeting. She explained that the POS membership is so low that it needs to be pooled with the PPO plan and that both of these plans together are still not credible for projecting rates.

Bill Hickey said he agreed that the POS membership is not large enough to rate on its own and that pooling it with the PPO would seem necessary.

There was a discussion about the various funding scenarios and an additional scenario was reviewed, Scenario B-3 which had a 13.5% composite increase in funding.

Judy Belliveau motioned to recommend to the Board adoption of FY08 Funding Scenario B-3.

Motion

John Flaherty seconded the motion. The motion was passed by majority approval. Larry Barton, Town of Carlisle, opposed.

Larry Barton suggested that the rates be rounded to whole dollar amounts as opposed to percentages.

Carol Cormier said she would do that.

Judy Belliveau said she wanted to confirm there would be an overall increase of 13.5% in funding but that each individual unit's increase in funding would vary depending upon the distribution of enrollments in the various plans.

Carol Cormier said Ms. Belliveau was correct.

Other Business:

Infertility Treatment Benefit – Carol Cormier explained that currently Tufts Health Plan does not cover members who reside outside of Massachusetts for infertility treatment. She said the other health plans do cover the out-of-state members because the employer is a Massachusetts employer.

Matt Shields, Tufts Health Plan, said that the coverage for members outside of Massachusetts, specifically New Hampshire, is tiered. He said some of the minor Infertility treatment is covered.

Judy Belliveau motioned to accept the Massachusetts mandated infertility benefit for Tufts Health Plan to offer Infertility treatment to members who reside outside of MA as long as they treat with a Tufts Health Plan provider.

Motion

Larry Barton seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Prosthetics coverage – Jerry Martin explained that Tufts Health Plan and Harvard Pilgrim Health care both have a cap on the prosthetics coverage of \$2,500 per year. He said Fallon has a \$1,500 cap.

Carol Cormier said the Prosthetics mandate went into effective on January 1, 2007 requiring insurers to cover medically necessary prosthetics devices and repairs with no annual or lifetime maximum benefit. She said that insurers could require coinsurance, however.

Judy Belliveau asked if the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group has a choice to accept the mandate or not.

Carol Cormier said that based on the memo from the Division of Insurance, the MNHG is not required to adopt the mandates on health plans that are incorporated into the Health Care Reform Act of 2006.

Larry Barton said since the Group is self-funded it would have to pay for the added coverage. He said that the Steering Committee should review this benefit to determine if it is wise to adopt the mandate.

Margaret Dennehy asked if more information about the prosthetics coverage could be obtained.

Carol Cormier said she would work on getting additional information by the next meeting.

There was no further business.

Larry Barton motioned to adjourn.

Motion

Jerry Martin seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Valerie Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

*Prepared by Lisa Trombly
Group Benefits Strategies*