

Minuteman Nashoba Health Group

Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 9:30 AM

Groton Center Fire Station
Groton, MA

Meeting Minutes

Committee and Alternate Members Present:

Donna Madden, Chair	Town of Bolton
Patrick McIntyre, Vice-Chair	Town of Boxborough
Anthony Logalbo, Treasurer	Town of Concord
Melisa Doig	Town of Groton
Beverly Beno	CASE Collaborative
Kevin Johnston	Town of Ayer
Kerry Colburn-Dion	Town of Carlisle
John Flaherty	Concord Carlisle RSD

Guests Present:

Sherry Kersey	Lincoln-Sudbury RSD
Brandi Mahlert	Lincoln-Sudbury RSD
Kerry LaFleur	Town of Concord
Julia LeBrun	Fallon Heath
Erin Hayes	Tufts Health Plan
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies
Dan Craig	Group Benefits Strategies
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies

Donna Madden, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Approval of the minutes of March 29, 2017:

Patrick McIntyre moved approval of the Steering Committee minutes of March 29, 2017 as written.

Motion

Melisa Doig seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

myMedicationAdvisor® (MMA) and Diabetes Rewards Program reports, - Linda Loiselle:

MMA Report – Linda Loiselle said a few specialty medications were added to the medication lists, but no one was using them as of March 31, 2017. Ms. Loiselle said she would discuss specialty drugs in detail later in the meeting. She reported an estimated net savings of \$71,929 to MNHG and \$10,160 employee copays waived through March 31st.

Diabetes Rewards Program report – Linda Loiselle reviewed the report with data through February and said 31% of those eligible to enroll are participating in the program. She said 52% of the members enrolled are meeting the five care guidelines and getting their medications and supplies at no cost. Ms. Loiselle said Abacus sent out a communication to the employers to distribute to their employees. She said to let her know if someone didn't receive a copy.

Ms. Loiselle reported estimated savings to MNHG as of February 28, 2017 of \$22,768 and \$7,475 member copays waived. She said the total program medication and supply costs were \$90,224. Ms. Loiselle reviewed the number of program promotional efforts and helpline calls.

Joint Purchase Agreement – proposed amendments:

Carol Cormier said that she spoke about possible changes to the MNHG Joint Purchase Agreement (JPA) at the last meeting and noted that the JPA has not been amended in several years.

Ms. Cormier said she put together a list of suggested changes to protect MNHG in case of potential loss of membership, as well as some clarifications. She reviewed the proposed changes.

Carol Cormier said the changes to Article 13 were changed in 2009 as Tony Logalbo pointed out to her. She said Mr. Logalbo also suggested removing Article 12, because it is no longer needed since the issue is addressed in Article 8.

Following a discussion, Tony Logalbo motioned to remove Article 12 from the JPA.

Kerry Colburn-Dion seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Motion

Ms. Cormier said Article 11 of the JPA states that the agreement may be amended at any time, provided that at least two-thirds of the Board vote acceptance. She said it also states that the proposed changes need to be designated by the Board, and notice of the changes be provided to the appropriate public authority of each unit at least 60 days prior to the proposed implementation date.

Tony Logalbo made a motion that the first reading will take place at the next Board meeting.

Kerry Colburn-Dion seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Motion

Tony Logalbo suggested adding language about the timeliness of member payments and said he would send some verbiage to Ms. Cormier.

Donna Madden announced that she would be retiring on July 1, 2017 but would be working from July 16th through the end of August. She also said she would remain on the MNHG Board through December 2017.

Presentation by Abacus/PBS on services provided for the alternative prescription drug purchasing program:

Carol Cormier briefly explained the reason for the Abacus/PBS presentation, citing a new contract proposal from PBS and new knowledge about the services that CanaRx provides. She said that MNHG uses Abacus/PBS as an intermediary in the alternative prescription drug

purchasing program in which health plan members are given access to purchasing certain medications through CanaRx. Ms. Cormier said that recently the Berkshire Health Group contacted CanaRx, the agent for the individual members that purchase of prescription drugs in the MNHG's program, to inquire about members purchasing medications directly through CanaRx. Ms. Cormier said she heard that presentation to BHG and found that CanaRx is offering most of the services now provided by Abacus/PBS and without additional fees.

Ms. Cormier said she spoke to Michael Follick, owner and President of Abacus/PBS. She said he asked to speak to the Steering Committee about the value that he believes Abacus/PBS adds to the program.

Ms. Cormier introduced Mike Follick.

Mike Follick thanked the Steering Committee for the opportunity to speak about Abacus's value proposition. He said there are legitimate reasons for the group to look at going direct with CanaRx. He said whatever choice the group makes, he said 4 components, Safety, Liability, Security and Savings, should all be considered. He said Abacus is about much more than presenting monthly reports and attending health fairs. He introduced Joe Wroblewski, Linda Loiselle and Joe Demaso and said they would be speaking about how the programs have evolved.

Linda Loiselle said the MNHG'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's 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.

Joe Demaso, a member of the pharmacy team, said a more proactive approach is necessary when dealing with the complexity of specialty medications. He said outreach to members by a pharmacist is important to be sure they know how to take the medication, store it, side effects, etc.

Mike Follick explained that when the structure was first set up, MNHG 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. Dr. Follick said that is why when the owner of PBS passed away, Abacus decided 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 said Abacus has built algorithms into its systems and also feeds the user information back to the carriers.

Mike Follick said Abacus uses a targeted data model for direct communications to members. He also noted that MNHG receives a multi-program discount. Mike Follick said there is value in the proven net savings, targeting mailings, the analysis and safety, as well as the excellent member service.

The Committee did not have any questions and thanked Mike Follick and his team for their presentation.

Donna Madden said she and Tony Logalbo, along with the other MMRA Board members, saw the CanaRx presentation and said it would be beneficial for the Committee to hear from them as well.

The Committee agreed with Ms. Madden and asked to invite a representative of CanaRx to the next meeting.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Kerry Colburn-Dion motioned to adjourn.

Motion

Melisa Doig seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chair, Donna Madden, adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter
Group Benefits Strategies*