

MINUTEMAN NASHOBA HEALTH GROUP

Steering Committee Meeting

Groton Town Hall
Groton, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

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

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

Guests Present:

Bill Hickey
Fred Winer
Matt Shields
Carol Cormier
Jenna Roginsky

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

Chair Valerie Jenkins called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the February 28, 2007 meeting:

Larry Barton moved to approve the Steering Committee minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2007.

Judy Belliveau seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous approval.

Motion

GBS RDS Memorandum of Understanding:

Carol Cormier said that the annual fee proposed by Group Benefit Strategies (GBS) for providing services related to Medicare Part D Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS) would be \$9,000. She said that the FY08 RDS applications had been filed the end of February 2007. She discussed the issue created by the decision to move the senior plans to a calendar year basis. She said that for FY08 the RDS filing would remain on a fiscal year basis but that if the January 1, 2008 rates changes were significant, the actuarial attestations would have to be re-done. She said that this is what she hoped could be avoided.

Larry Barton made a motion to approve the GBS RDS Memorandum of Understanding.

John Flaherty seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion

Website Maintenance Contract:

Carol Cormier said that the current website maintenance contract for the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG) will expire in February 2008. She said that she could include it in an agenda for a later meeting if the group did not want to take action today.

Larry Barton made a motion to recommend the Website Maintenance Contract at the Board Meeting.

Judy Belliveau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion

Reinsurance Request for Quotations (RFQ):

Carol Cormier said the reinsurance policy expires December 31st. She said GBS would issue an RFQ for reinsurance for CY08 and wanted to discuss the requested specifications and levels with the Committee. She said currently MNHG has a \$200,000 specific deductible level with a \$100,000 aggregating specific deductible.

There was a discussion.

Larry Barton said that those numbers worked well for the Group.

The Committee members agreed with Mr. Barton and instructed Carol Cormier to request quotes for the same policy terms as are currently in place.

Ms. Cormier said that other Joint Purchase Groups (JPG) had difficulties getting reinsurance quotes from the reinsurance carriers because of a large number of high claims. She said that the MNHG's high cost claims experience was not too bad at this time so she hoped for some competition in the quoting process.

Medicare plans for CY2008:

Anthony Logalbo asked when the Senior Plan rates would become available.

Bill Hickey from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPCH) said they should be available in about a week.

Fred Winer from Tufts Health Plan (THP) said that he is anticipating a similar time frame.

Carol Cormier said that the Group would have to meet in October, after receiving the rate projections for the self-funded Medicare Complement Plan (MCP) and the insured plans, to make a final decision.

Tufts new Private Fee for Service plan:

Fred Winer (THP) presented Tufts' Private Fee for Service (PFFS) retiree plans. He said that there would be two PFFS plans, Basic and Prime. He said the benefits on the Prime PFFS pretty much mirror those of the Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO except for the office visit copays. He said that PFFS plans do not have provider networks and members may go to any Medicare-participating provider. He said providers might, however, choose to accept or not accept the coverage at the point of service. He said that there are some providers in eastern Mass., Harvard Vanguard and Dedham Medical Associates that have decided not to accept PFFS plans. Mr. Winer said that the Group would have to choose to offer only one of the two plans. He said that for the Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO plan members will be able to use the prescription Mail-order program for prescriptions written for 30, 60, and 90 days rather than just for 90 day scripts.

There was a discussion.

Larry Barton asked if the retirees would have to change their doctors once they are on a PFFS plan.

Bill Hickey reminded the Committee that Harvard Pilgrim is offering its PFFS plan, First Seniority Freedom, to the group now. He said that most doctors are agreeable to accepting these Medicare plans.

Judy Belliveau asked about the whether a large number of providers is expected to stop participating in Medicare plans.

Fred Winer said no. He said that claims are processed faster through the health plans than through Medicare and no referrals are required on PFFS plans, so there is less paper work for the providers.

Fred Winer said that the Tufts Medicare Preferred rate and the Tufts Medicare Complement (TMC) rate would remain at the current levels for 2008.

Larry Barton noted that PFFS plans are a good money saving option. He said that with an open enrollment every year, the retirees would have opportunity to continue participating in the PFFS plan or choose another one.

It was agreed that this would be discussed with the Board.

Update on meetings with Joint Purchase Groups:

Carol Cormier said that Berkshire Health Group (BHG) took an approach to drop its current menu of benefit plans on October 1, 2009 and offer only the new Value Plus plans at that time. She said that both menus are available for employers now. She said that teachers' unions filed unfair labor practice charges against most of the employers in BHG. Ms Cormier said that the unions have until September 28, 2007 to respond to the employers' requests to dismiss the cases. She said that she would not expect to have a Labor Relations Commission (LRC) decision until mid to late October at the earliest.

Carol Cormier said that currently West Suburban Health Group (WSHG) has two separate optional menus of plans. She said that the group is considering making the Rate Saver plans mandatory. She said that the WSHG is waiting to learn of the Labor Relations Commission's decision in the BHG cases before taking a vote. .

GIC Option:

Because of the short time frame, the GIC option discussion was postponed until the Board meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Other Business:

Valerie Jenkins, Chair of the Steering Committee, said that she will be transitioning out and the current Board alternate, Elizabeth Currier, would assume her position on the Board. She said that the Group would need to find a replacement for her on the Steering Committee.

There was no further business.

Valerie Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

*Prepared by Jenna Roginsky
Group Benefits Strategies*