

Minuteman Nashoba Health Group

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM
Groton Fire Station
Groton, MA

Meeting Minutes

Board and Alternate Members Present:

Donna Madden, Chair	Town of Bolton
Patrick McIntyre, Vice Chair	Town of Boxborough
John Flaherty	Concord-Carlisle RSD
Ian Rhames	Concord-Carlisle RSD
Kristen Noel	Town of Bolton
Kevin Johnston	Town of Ayer
Kerry Colburn-Dion	Town of Carlisle
Kerry LaFleur	Town of Concord
Melisa Doig	Town of Groton
Cheryl Gariepy	Town of Lancaster
Brandi Mahlert	Lincoln-Sudbury RSD
Nancy Haines	North Middlesex RSD
Debbie Nutter	Town of Pepperell
Donna Bouchard	Narragansett RSD
Brigette Bell	Town of Tyngsborough
Marie Sobalvarro	Town of Harvard
John Kittredge	Town of Clinton

Guests Present:

Stephanie Oliver	Town of Concord
Sherry Kersey	Lincoln-Sudbury RSD
Cindy Martineau	North Middlesex RSD
Marcy Morrison	MNHG Wellness Consultant
Julia Lebrun	Fallon Health
Jennifer Curcio	Tufts Health Plan
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies

Chair Donna Madden called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Approval of the minutes of October 4, 2017:

Patrick McIntyre moved approval of the Board minutes of October 4, 2017.

Motion

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

Treasurer’s Report:

Ian Rhames reviewed the financial reports of October 31, 2017 (unaudited figures) and said the fund balance is trending upwards. He said the financials show an Uncommitted Fund Balance of \$3,370,799.

GBS reports:

Funding Rate Analysis Report (FRA) - Carol Cormier reviewed the FY18 FRA report with data through September 2017. She said the expense-to-funding ratio on a paid claims basis was 91.9% with a funding surplus of \$1,225,728. She said the Fallon expense-to-funding ratio was 101.5%.

High Performance Health Plan –

Carol Cormier said GBS is looking at programs that have the potential to lower claims costs. She said in addition to the prescription drug Carve-out and diabetes programs discussed at previous meetings, GBS is looking at a muscular skeletal program, cancer care and others.

Wellness Report – Marcy Morrison, MNHG Wellness Consultant:

Marcy Morrison reviewed the wellness report on the current and upcoming programs. She said the Move Across America activity program will be rolled out to all units. Ms. Morrison said she is working on a smoking cessation program that would comply with the ACA requirements.

Ms. Morrison said she is going to be looking for guidance and information from the Board possible adoption of the Omada Health Care and other programs brought by Group Benefits Strategies.

Vote on plan design changes for June 1, 2018:

Carol Cormier reviewed the plan design changes exhibit and the expected claims decrements of changing current deductibles to \$300, \$600, \$900, increasing the out-patient surgery co-pay to \$250, specialist visit- co-pay to *either \$45 or \$65*, and prescription mail order copay changes from \$10/25/50 to \$10/30/65 and mail order copays to 2 ½ times the retail copays. Ms. Cormier said employers can use the Ch. 32B, Sections 21, 22 bargaining option.

Kevin Johnston made a motion to approve the plan design changes as presented, and increasing the specialist copay to \$45 for June 1, 2018.

Motion

John Flaherty seconded the motion. The motion passed by a majority vote, with one abstention.

Diabetes care management programs:

Carol Cormier said the Steering Committee heard from Abacus about the proposed program enhancements that include a new blood glucose monitor, Accu-Chek®-Guide, which would electronically monitor the participants’ blood glucose levels. She said the monitor is can transfer the numbers to the Abacus Diabetes Care nurse and to the member’s computer. The members can also bring the record of the readings to their physicians. Ms. Cormier said an analysis of the readings can identify where a member may be having issues that could be addressed.

Ms. Cormier said GBS is also looking at another diabetes program provider named Livongo which has a digital meter. She said more review is needed to determine which program will work best for MNHG. Ms. Cormier said there would be more to come on this item.

Update on the alternative prescription drug purchasing program:

Carol Cormier said the alternative prescription drug program *direct with CanaRx* became effective on October 1st. She said CanaRx will provide quarterly reports on the utilization and savings. Ms. Cormier said letters about the October 1st transition from Abacus to CanaRx were sent to all members of MNHG.

Kerry Colburn-Dion said she recommends the alternative prescription drug program based on her positive experiences with the program.

Planning educational sessions on HSA-qualified high deductible health plans:

Carol Cormier suggested starting with meetings with Labor and then set up meetings with individual units. She said holding meetings for Labor beginning in December should work. Ms. Cormier asked the Board members to send her a list of how many unions are at each unit. She said the informational meetings usually last 1.5 to 2 hours.

There was a discussion about various locations to hold meetings to be geographically accessible to the most people.

Cheryl Gariepy said she would check to see if Lancaster would be available.

Health Plan Reports:

Fallon Health – Julia Lebrun said there was nothing new to report.

Bill Hickey – Mr. Hickey said there is going to be a redesign of the Harvard Pilgrim EPO and PPO Rx formularies. He said historically every prescription that was FDA approved was available through Harvard Pilgrim. Mr. Hickey said prescription drugs are the major cost driver now, and on November 1, 2018 Harvard Pilgrim eliminated coverage for a large number of brand name drugs for which there are lower cost generic equivalents or therapeutic alternatives. Mr. Hickey also said 51 prescriptions will be dropping down to a Tier 1 from a higher tier. He said fewer than 100 MNHG members will be impacted.

Mr. Hickey also said Harvard Pilgrim's mail-order prescription drug service vendor will be changing from Walgreen's to MedImpact Direct effective October 1, 2017.

Mr. Hickey said letters have been sent out to members informing them of the changes.

Tufts Health Plan – Fred Winer said the employers will need to send in new 2018 Tufts Senior plan enrollment forms. He said CMS will not accept the 2017 forms.

Erin Hayes asked to be included in all HSA meetings.

Carol Cormier said she will send an email to the Board with the contact information of all of the carriers.

Other Business:

Donna Madden said Tufts is implementing a new program about orthopedic surgeries and said it will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

In response to a question asked, Ms. Cormier said that once the FY19 rates are approved by the Board she will send out a template to calculate the savings from changing to the new plan design.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for February 15, 2018. Steering Committee meetings were scheduled for December 20, 2017 and February 13, 2018, all to be held at 10:00 AM at the Groton Fire Station.

The MNHG HSA-qualified plan meeting for unions was tentatively set for December 5th at the Town of Lancaster at 4:00 PM pending availability.

The meeting location was subsequently changed to Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School.

There was no other business.

Patrick McIntyre moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion

Kerry Colburn-Dion seconded the motion.

Chair, Donna Madden adjourned the meeting at 11:03 AM.

*Prepared by Karen Carpenter
Group Benefits Strategies*