

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH GROUP

Steering Committee Meeting

Easton Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2013

Steering Committee Present:

Jacqueline Boudreau
William Ross
Joe Fernandes
Chris Sylvia
Mark Fisher
Randy Buckner

Town of Norton
Town of Mansfield
Town of Plainville
Town of Westport
North Attleborough
Town of Raynham

Others Present:

Teresa DeSilva
George Foster
Pam Smith
Ginger Hastings
Paul Mulkern

Town of Easton
Group Treasurer
GBS
GBS
Group Counsel

Jackie Boudreau began the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

General Business

Ms. Boudreau made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting from September 16, 2013 and the minutes from the August 21, 2013 meeting. Ms. Sylvia seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. DeSilva updated the Committee on the status of the HMS enrollment audit. She explained that HMS has been going back and forth with BCBS in an effort to resolve problems relating to the transfer of certain files. She said that HMS would soon be contacting subscribers. Mr. Mulkern pointed out that in grandfathered plans an affidavit for adult children needed to be included with the audit materials. This affidavit verifies whether adult children are eligible for coverage based upon their own or a spouse's employment. He explained that HMS felt that this affidavit was outside the scope of its usual services. While HMS had originally proposed a fee of \$500. plus an additional \$2.50 for each adult child in a grandfathered plan for including the affidavit in the audit materials, it ultimately reduced the charge to \$250. and \$1.25 for each adult child. Mr. Fernandes made a motion to amend the Group's contract with HMS to include the \$250. fee and the \$1.25 per adult child charge. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fisher and passed by unanimous vote.

Financial Update

Ms. Hastings provided a financial update. She noted that the Group's claims had recently improved and the Group's loss ratio has decreased to 96.2%.

Mr. Foster provided the Treasurer's report.

New Business

Ms. DeSilva indicated that she had recently met with Jack Sharry to discuss the proposal from the Mayflower Health Group that SMHG merge with it. Ms. DeSilva explained that her review of the relevant numbers suggested that it would not be in the best interest of SMHG to merge with the Mayflower Group at this time. Nevertheless, she felt that it might be advantageous for the two groups to offer certain ancillary services on a joint basis.

Ms. Hastings asked if the Committee would be interested in adding the Town of Somerset to the Group. Committee members expressed an interest in speaking with Somerset's representatives and, more generally, indicated that the Group should be encouraging applications for membership from governmental units in the Southeastern Massachusetts region.

Mr. Fernandes indicated that he had received complaints from a retiree that Blue Cross was not paying claims that would have been covered by Medicare Part B if he was enrolled in Part B. Ms. Hastings pointed out that this was happening because the subscriber had not enrolled in Part B when he had become eligible. Mr. Fernandes asked that SMHG direct Blue Cross to pay the claims until the subscriber could be enrolled in Part B. The Committee members asked Mr. Fernandes to provide GBS with further details regarding the issue and suggested that, after the material was supplied to the Committee, the Committee might rule on the request.

Mr. Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ross and passed by unanimous vote.