

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH GROUP

Steering Committee Meeting

Mansfield Town Hall
Mansfield MA

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2016

Steering Committee Members Present:

Chris DeFontes	Town of Seekonk
Brad Brightman	Town of Westport
Michael Gallagher	Town of North Attleboro
Bill Ross	Town of Mansfield
Jennifer Thompson	Town of Plainville
Cheryl Gouveia	Town of Rehoboth

Others Present:

Michael Yunits	Town of Norton
Pam Smith	GBS
Kate Sharry	GBS
Paul Mulkern	Group Counsel
Mike Breen	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Patti Firing	Town of Mansfield

Bill Ross began the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

General Business

Ms. Thompson made a motion to accept the minutes of the Committee's February 23, 2016 meeting. Ms. Gouveia seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ross said that he and Mr. Yunits are in the process of reviewing applications for the Treasurer position. Mr. Ross asked if the other Committee members would like to be involved in the process or if he and Mr. Yunits should handle the interviews. There was consensus that Mr. Ross and Mr. Yunits should handle the process.

Ms. Sharry said that the Treasurer of the Mayflower Municipal Health Group reached out to her to offer assistance in the process. She will give Mr. Ross his contact number.

Pam Smith presented the financial report which included two months of claims data. The overall loss ratio is at 88.4%. Last year at this time the loss ratio was 104.6%.

Mr. Mulkern asked whether a Trust Fund audit is being done. Ms. Smith said she recently received an email from the auditors requesting data so she believes the audit is in process.

Ms. Sharry presented the senior plan renewal for the Group. She said the current Medex rate is \$338.27. She said that BCBS was suggesting that the rate be increased to \$359.30, effective January 1, 2017. That would reflect a 6.27% increase. She said that GBS was recommending an 8.2% increase to \$366.01.

She said that Blue Cross was increasing the premium rate for the Managed Blue for Seniors plan to \$321.01, effective January 1, 2017.

Chris DeFontes made a motion that the Group set the MEDEX rate at \$366.01, effective January 1, 2017, and that the Group accept the Managed Blue for Seniors rate of \$321.01, effective that same date. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gouveia and passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Sharry continued the discussion of strategy for the 2017 - 2018 plan year. She pointed out that Blue Cross would not be able to provide rate estimates until the Group had decided what plans it would be offering. She suggested that the Group consider dropping the grandfathered plans while offering only the value and deductible plans. She said that the Group could also consider offering a high deductible/HSA plan as an option.

Mr. Ross said that it would be helpful to have rates for a high deductible/HSA plan before it was presented to the town's unions. Mr. Breen explained that Blue Cross would need to know the details of the plan the Group would be offering before Blue Cross could propose rates for such a plan.

Mr. Mulkern stressed that members should consider using c. 32 B, Sections 21 - 22 to make design changes to their plans. He noted that even communities that had previously utilized the process could use the process, again, to take advantage of the changes that the GIC had recently made to the benchmark plan.

Other Business

Ms. Smith explained that the Group's invoice roster and the website maintenance contracts with GBS had expired. She said that GBS was proposing to extend those contracts for an additional year with no increase to the annual rates. The invoice roster charge would continue to be \$130 per unit (for a total annual charge for the entire Group of \$1,430.) while the website maintenance annual charge would remain at \$5,700. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to renew the contracts at those annual charges. The motion was seconded by Ms. Thompson and passed by unanimous vote.

The next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for November 9th at 9:00 a.m. in Mansfield.

At 10:32 a.m. Mr. Ross made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallagher and passed by unanimous vote.