



Southeastern Massachusetts Health Group (SMHG) Board Meeting

Thursday, January 25th, 2026
Virtual Meeting / Remote Participation / Meeting Recorded

Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Paul Reynolds, Board Vice Chair
Art Scott
Mark Gould
Kelly Usher
Deborah Arruda
Chris Defontes
Daniel Haynes
Michael King

Dighton
CES
Norton
Raynham
Rehoboth
Seekonk
Tri-County
Wrentham

Guests in Attendance:

Suzanne Judson-Whitehouse
Ralph Vitaccio
Jennifer Sroka
Jenn Argo
Stella Farias
Chris Vitale
Rich Bienvenue
Patrick Flattery
Sheila Kaye
Jennifer Carey
Stephen Fay
Stephanie Davison
Daniel Shanahan
Marc Shapiro
Victoria Khavulya
Marianna Gil
Cheryl Houle
Allison Potter

CES
Dighton
Norton
Seekonk
Westport
Westport
Treasurer
Arthur J. Gallagher
Arthur J. Gallagher
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Blue Cross Blue Shield
PBIRx
PBIRx
Hilb Group
Medway
Medway

Paul Reynolds, Board Vice Chair, began the meeting at 9:31 am. Patrick Flattery took the attendance roll. Member units present were CES, Dighton, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Tri-County, and Wrentham.

Discussion and Potential Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes of December 18th, 2025

Kelly Usher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 18th, 2025. Art Scott seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote by Mr. Flattery.

Motion



CES	Yes
Dighton	Yes
Norton	Yes
Raynham	Yes
Rehoboth	Yes
Seekonk	Yes
Tri-County	Yes
Wrentham	Abstain

The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

Rich Bienvenue reported on the financial data through November. The current year saw a loss of \$200,000 which is close to a break even and was expected with the Group using trust fund dollars to lower the rate. Mr. Bienvenue noted that the RX rebate anticipated in November was actually received in October for the prior fiscal year, which artificially improved the previous month’s report. The fund balance does continue to hold strong at around \$11.5 million dollars. Rich also spoke to preparing for the FY25 audit.

Financial Report

Patrick Flattery said that the financial report was not yet available but nothing in the data seemed aberrational. Patrick spoke about the costs of the Abacus Healthy Weight Program which were approximately \$1 million thus far in FY26. When factoring in that cost with the previous month’s financial report it gives an MLR of approximately 97%. Patrick is working on adding a line item to the financial report to show the Abacus costs moving forward.

Discussion of Medex Implementation Effective January 1, 2026

Patrick Flattery explained the timing of the transition to BCBS Medex for 2026 and the issues with the transition. Blue Cross assured Gallagher that ID cards were mailed out on December 9th and delays in the mail were causing members not to receive them by the end of the month. After repeated inquiries about large numbers of members who did not yet have ID cards it was discovered that Blue Cross did not order ID cards for the majority of the members. Blue Cross immediately ordered ID cards upon discovering the issue. Patrick explained that he worked with RetireeFirst to immediately initiate a mailing of temporary ID cards to minimize the waiting time to receive the physical ones from Blue Cross. Patrick asked anyone with issues to reach out to him or RetireeFirst for assistance in getting members their information.

Stephen Fay from Blue Cross apologized for the error. Mr. Fay explained that ID cards are mailed from Texas and Blue Cross was of the belief that delays were just from the backlog of mail during the holiday season. Blue Cross discovered in January that cards had not been fully triggered to print and mail and immediately new cards were ordered. He apologized again for the error and said that by now members should have ID cards in hand.

Paul Reynolds stated that it seems his members have finally received their ID cards.



Stephen Fay asked if anyone is still having issues, they can reach out to him or Jen Carey for assistance.

Jennifer Sroka noted that in Norton many retirees said they did not get the RetireeFirst packet. She also added that she previously could order ID cards in BlueEnroll, but that functionality is now gone.

Patrick said he would follow up with RetireeFirst on both issues to see what can be done to get members information and how the process should work for ordering ID cards.

Prior Renewal Overview

Patrick Flattery explained that he wanted to make sure the member entities had prior renewal information before the rate setting in the February meeting. Patrick highlighted that over the past couple years the projections came in around 10% but in both years the Group elected to use \$1 million to bring down the rate. The renewal process is underway with the actuary so the rate setting vote can be held at the February meeting.

Patrick also noted that the Group should explore adding in a new plan that more closely aligns with the current Benchmark. This will allow groups to move their way to the Benchmark as well as offer a more comparable plan for future member entities that join SMHG.

Paul Reynolds asked what a good place holder would be as the groups work on their budgets.

Patrick replied that 10% is the amount that should be used for budgeting. The MLR is in the 95-100% range which would put the Group in line for a trend renewal. With trend being around 10% right now each entity should be using 10% at a minimum and perhaps even 12% to be safe.

Paul also asked when the Group will see the effects of the Abacus Healthy Weight Program.

Patrick replied that for this year things will look a lot like the status quo because members that were using the medications would still be in their initial 12 months and eligible for the medications. The expectation is the costs will decrease over the next fiscal year as members complete their 12 months of eligibility for the medication.

Mark Shapiro said that PBIRx will review the data and look at trends to report back to the group but largely agreed with Patrick's explanation.

Patrick clarified that 10% is his estimation of where the renewal will come in without any use of Trust fund balance.

Michael King asked if a scenario can be proposed where the HSA plans are priced with a lower rate of increase than the HMO plans. Patrick said he would include a scenario in the presentation next month.

Blue Cross Wellness Discussion

Stephanie Davison presented an overview of the current status of wellness programs and funding within SMHG. SMHG receives \$25,000 in wellness funding from Blue Cross each year. That funding has provided each member

entity with \$1,000 to use on wellness for their members as well as the funding for ahealthyme and the gift cards for members who complete the challenge each quarter. SMHG has grown from 7 member entities to 10 and has more on the way. As a result, the funding does not go as far as it previously did, and some thought has to be put into the best way to handle wellness spending moving forward.

The ahealthyme costs are higher now with the increase in membership. With that, the credit will not cover \$1,000 per entity on top of the program costs. Several groups have used their \$1,000 already but others have yet to spend their wellness funds. Stephanie asked that anyone who has an idea of how to use their funds reach out to her to make sure it can be done without exceeding the SMHG budget. Stephanie also proposed alternative wellness options, such as prerecorded wellness videos, which would cost less than using the full \$1,000 for any community who has not already spent their wellness credits.

Marianna Gil commented that those videos have low engagement historically. She asked if there could be an increase in wellness credits for SMHG.

Michael King added that last year in MIIA, Wrentham received \$7,000 in wellness credits so moving down to \$1,000 was a large impact. Michael said he would prefer to eliminate ahealthyme and just allocate wellness funding to each community to use on whatever they see fit.

Stephanie said eliminating ahealthyme is an option the group can explore among other options on how best to use the wellness funds. Jen Carey added that she will work with Stephanie to see what Blue Cross can do. Stephen Fay said he would have a conversation with Patrick on how the group looks at wellness funding moving forward.

Patrick added that Gallagher had already been talking to Blue Cross about increasing the wellness budget and a re-evaluation of how SMHG should manage wellness in the next fiscal year. Knowing that the dollars were finite for this year the goal was just to let people know there are options worth exploring.

Paul Reynolds added that ahealthyme and wellness have been well received in Dighton and the employees really enjoy the current wellness set up. Paul would prefer SMHG keep something more in line with the current offering rather than moving to videos or other options with lower engagement.

Jennifer Sroka noted that at a previous employer they had ahealthyme, but the incentive was HSA contributions instead of a gift card so perhaps that could be a way to keep ahealthyme but find a different incentive instead of using wellness funds on gift cards.

Mark Gould asked if the gym reimbursement was still in effect. Stephanie replied that it is, and it is separate from the wellness credits so it would not be impacted.

Stephanie highlighted the wellness video topics for the remainder of the year that SMHG could use to save on wellness spending. Stephanie said she will go back and review options to present some scenarios to SMHG for the remainder of the year.

Overview of ImpaxRx Implementation



Marc Shapiro highlighted the work underway to implement ImpaxRx. The Board voted to adopt the program on October 22, after which PBIRx began working with ImpaxRx to begin the implementation process. Weekly implementation calls began on January 8, and the contract has been sent for review and signature. Summary of benefits will need to be edited to reflect the addition of ImpaxRx and file feeds will be established to transmit the data to ImpaxRx. The target date for going live with ImpaxRx is March 1.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Patrick Flattery had a few updates for the group. First, he let the group know that the ACA files were transmitted to Gallagher and he is breaking them out by entity. Each entity can expect to receive their file within the next 2 days.

Patrick also asked if there are any issues or feedback with the Abacus Healthy Weight program to please reach out to him. There are no actual issues with the program but if some clarification is needed for members, Gallagher can work to make sure that is provided.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26th, 2026, at 9:30 am.

Deborah Arruda made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Defontes seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:23 a.m.

Motion

*Submitted by
Patrick Flattery
Gallagher Benefit Services*