



Southeastern Massachusetts Health Group (SMHG) Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

Virtual Meeting / Remote Participation / Meeting Recorded

Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Shawn Cadime, Board Chair
Paul Reynolds, Board Vice Chair
Art Scott
Mark Gould
Kelly Usher
Lisa Dias-Cabral
Jennifer Bouchard
Daniel Haynes
Susan Brayton
Michael King

Seekonk
Dighton
CES
Norton
Raynham
Rehoboth
SCEC
Tri-County
Westport
Wrentham

Guests in Attendance:

Suzanne
Ralph Vitacco
Chris Defontes
Jenn Argo
Mickey Dargon
Stella Farias
Patrick Flattery
Sheila Kaye
Jennifer Carey
Stephanie Davison
Stephen Fay
Daniel Shanahan
Christopher Fitzgerald
Leo Peloquin
Angela Medeiros
Marc Shapiro
Dave Sirowich
Marianna Gil
Andrew Powell
Michael Boynton
Allison Potter
Joyce Sheehan

CES
Dighton
Seekonk
Seekonk
SCEC
Westport
Arthur J. Gallagher
Arthur J. Gallagher
BCBS
BCBS
BCBS
BCBS
Conn Kavanaugh
Norris, Murray, & Peloquin
PBIRx
PBIRx
PBIRx
Hilb Group
MTA
Medway
Medway
Medway

Shawn Cadime, Board Chair, began the meeting at 12:03 pm. Patrick Flattery took the attendance roll. Member units present were CES, Dighton, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, SCEC, Seekonk, Tri-County, Westport, and Wrentham.

Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Art Scott made a motion to move to executive session. Paul Reynolds seconded the motion.

Motion

There was a roll call vote by Mr. Flattery.

CES	Yes
Dighton	Yes
Raynham	Yes
Seekonk	Yes
Tri-County	Yes
Wrentham	Yes

The motion passed.

The meeting entered executive session at 12:10 pm.

The meeting resumed at 12:46 pm.

Paul Dighton made a motion to retain Conn Kavanaugh as legal counsel for the present matter. Art Scott seconded the motion.

Motion

There was a roll call vote by Mr. Flattery.

CES	Yes
Dighton	Yes
Norton	Yes
Raynham	Yes
Seekonk	Yes
SCEC	Yes
Tri-County	Yes
Westport	Yes
Wrentham	Yes

The motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2026 and March 3, 2026

Paul Dighton made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2026 and March 3, 2026. Art Scott seconded the motion.

Motion

There was a roll call vote by Mr. Flattery.



CES	Yes
Dighton	Yes
Norton	Yes
Seekonk	Yes
SCEC	Yes
Tri-County	Yes
Westport	Yes
Wrentham	Yes

The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

Rich Bienvenue was unable to attend the meeting so Patrick Flattery presented an overview of the report.

Patrick pointed out the total equity position for the year was down approximately \$1.7 million which brings the total equity position to about \$10 million. Part of that decrease in equity position is a result of putting \$1 million at risk when setting FY26 rates but another part is from declining RX rebates. SMHG is seeing smaller rebate amounts due to the removal of GLP-1 medication from the formulary. Those medications historically provided the group with high rebates. Patrick noted that Rich is working on adjusting the forecast for future RX rebates as well as the IBNR.

Financial Report

Patrick updated the group that since the meeting was slightly earlier than normal this month, the full report was not yet ready. Patrick did pull the information and was able to provide the group with the updates. Through February the loss ratio for the group was 99.92%, leaving a surplus of \$23,000. February saw a loss ratio of 119% which was driven by a spike in pharmacy claims. Patrick added that with the \$1 million used to offset FY26 rates, being right around 100% loss ratio is to be expected. The Medex self-insured plan has seen minimal run out and still sits at 97% loss ratio for the year. Outstanding reinsurance reimbursements were \$853,000, primarily a result of 2 claimants that have exceeded \$600,000 in claims. Patrick also added that the reinsurance marketing would begin in roughly a month.

PBIRx PBM RFP Results and Possible Vote to Adopt PBM

Patrick introduced Marc Shapiro and Dave Sirowich of PBIRx to review the PBM RFP results.

Dave Sirowich began the review of the RFP by providing an overview of the bid process. The RFP was released in October 2025 with a de-identified claims file provided to the vendor partners to assess price and disruption. All vendors who received the RFP are also capable of providing the same member service and clinical care that Blue Cross currently provides. PBIRx receives the information back and does an internal analysis, follow up with the vendors, and then present the results.

PBIRx was able to work with the other vendors and Blue Cross and Blue Cross provided a very strong proposal. Under their best and final offer, keeping the pharmacy benefits carved in with Blue Cross would result in an estimated savings of \$1.8 million in FY27. There was an additional Blue Cross formulary option that would result



in an additional \$150,000 savings but would also result in significant member disruption. Additionally, another option would've resulted in savings of \$2.6 million but also a substantial member disruption.

Dave noted that the next step would be to determine if the group would like a 1-year contract or a 3-year contract. The current contract with Blue Cross is a one-year contract for FY26, which allowed SMHG to conduct this RFP and obtain even greater savings. Dave also pointed out that this is a period of change with some expensive medications. GLP-1 medications have been removed from the formulary for SMHG and that trend continues throughout the market. Other expensive medications such as Humira and Stelara are both being replaced with biosimilars which will help reduce costs but will also result in smaller rebates.

Dave then reviewed the foundational assistance programs that would be available if SMHG opted to carve out the pharmacy coverage to one of the bidding vendors. Through these programs members are assessed for needs-based assistance and receive their medication at reduced rates. The members would need to provide their income information to assess eligibility for this type of program. Estimated savings under these programs would be \$898,000.

Shawn Cadime asked if PBIRx had a recommendation for SMHG. Dave replied that the recommendation is to renew with Blue Cross on their best and final offer.

Michael King asked if Dave could provide a range that the savings under a foundational assistance program might vary. Dave answered that he would say it is around 25% both ways. Since it is a needs-based program there is the chance members won't qualify, and the savings won't be available to the group.

Shawn Cadime made a motion to accept the Blue Cross Blue Shield best and final offer at 15.87% savings with the authority to move forward with a negotiation of a one-year contract with Blue Cross. Michael King seconded the motion.

Motion

There was a roll call vote by Mr. Flattery.

CES	Yes
Norton	Yes
Raynham	Yes
Seekonk	Yes
SCEC	Yes
Tri-County	Yes
Westport	Yes
Wrentham	Yes

The motion passed.

FY27 Blue Cross New Benefit Adoptions and Possible Vote

Patrick informed the group that there are a few state mandates for this year which SMHG needs to decide whether to adopt or not. There is also a new medical injectables program through Blue Cross. The three state mandates are expanded no-cost breast cancer screening, recovery coaching for substance abuse, and enhanced benefits for treating Down Syndrome. Patrick noted adopting these mandates would have minimal impact on overall claims expenses.

Patrick also noted the new HelpScript program offered by Blue Cross is available for implementation. This program manages costs of injectable medications that are covered under the medical insurance instead of the prescription drug coverage. This program is estimated to save SMHG \$43,000.

Jen Carey provided a brief overview of the program. This covers medications the member is injecting at home. By using this program, SMHG would be able to capture coupon savings in the home setting instead of just the office setting. A one year look back of SMHG utilization showed an estimated savings of \$43,000. There is no cost to add the program and there is no penalty to the member if they don't enroll in it. Any savings created by this program are shared with SMHG getting 70% and Blue Cross keeping 30% to cover the administrative fees for the program.

Art Scott made a motion to adopt the three state mandates and the HelpScript program effective July 1, 2026. Kelly Usher seconded the motion.

Motion

There was a roll call vote by Mr. Flattery.

CES	Yes
Norton	Yes
Raynham	Yes
Seekonk	Yes
SCEC	Yes
Tri-County	Yes
Wrentham	Yes

The motion passed.

SMHG Potential New Member Entities Update

Patrick provided an update on the Towns of Dartmouth and Uxbridge potentially joining SMHG. Both towns were holding meetings that week to make a final decision on joining the group.

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

Patrick noted that Stephanie Davison from Blue Cross wanted to provide a quick update on wellness. Given that the meeting had already run long, Patrick asked if Stephanie could do a larger presentation at the April meeting. Stephanie agreed and said she would send the slide information out to the group after the meeting. She also noted groups have until June to spend their wellness credits.

Next Meeting Date

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

Kelly Usher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Bouchard seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:39 pm.

Motion

*Submitted by
Patrick Flattery
Gallagher Benefit Services*