

## **Owning Your Own Health Committee**

Old Jail Conference Room  
August 19, 2015 - 1:30 p.m.  
Legislature Chambers

APPROVED

Present: Mack Cook, Ted Schiele, Bev Chin, Brooke Jobin, Don Barber, Ashley Masucci, Ken Foresti (via conference call), Debby Kelley, Jennifer Jones

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2015**

It was MOVED by Mr. Schiele, seconded by Ms. Kelley, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of July 15, 2015 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Barber reported at the last meeting the Board of Directors said they would work with the Community Dispute Resolution Center for development of a mission and vision statement. A draft mission statement is being put together by the Board of Directors and the vision statement will include input from others associated with the Consortium. He expects draft language to be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Barber said the wellness survey was distributed to all municipalities except the County and a number of responses have been received.

#### **Update on Worksite Wellness Coalition**

Mr. Schiele distributed a flyer on "Put Fruit to Work" that will be sent out to businesses in Tompkins County with five or more employees that will include a reply card for businesses to respond if they would like to join the movement, be placed on the Worksite Wellness Coalition e-mail list, or to request additional information. He said the Coalition is kicking off the promotion that coincides with September being the National Fruits and Veggies Matters More Month. It asks worksites to observe this event and to provide fruit to employees or coordinate with employees in some other way to celebrate fruit being a healthy snack. More information will be sent out throughout the week.

Mr. Barber said at recent meetings during discussion of wellness plans people have asked why the Consortium is moving towards a wellness component when people can go to their physician and get biometric numbers. He distributed information provided by Beth Miller that showed in 2014 only 38% of people received preventative (wellness) services and to date in 2015 only 17% have. These numbers demonstrate there is a need to encourage more members to seek preventative care.

Mr. Schiele said there was a lively discussion at the last meeting of the Joint Committee on Plan Structure Design related to this and thinks these are valuable statistics to show why people should be doing this and that not all are doing this.

### **Flu Clinic Update**

Ms. Masucci distributed information on the upcoming flu clinics and noted the Board approved coverage for the flu vaccine being covered through the prescription plan. This is being programmed through ProAct's system and members should be able to have flu vaccines processed through their prescription benefit plan as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. She will send the Word version of the document for it to be formatted and distributed to members on Consortium letterhead.

### **Wellness Component for Metal Level Plans**

Mr. Cook said the Town of Willet and the Village of Homer have the Platinum Plan through the Consortium. The Plan has a wellness component but the Consortium has yet to define what the component is. There have been discussions over the last several months about wellness plans and what wellness component would be attached to the Consortium's metal level plans. Although agreement was not reached at this Committee's last meeting he believes members are close to reaching a consensus and would like to take a recommendation to the September Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Barber said he checked with Ignite Health and WCS and they would not be interested in serving such a small group; therefore, the Blue4U seems to be the Consortium's only choice at this time. The Blue4U program would be effective January 1, 2016 and would have a cost of \$150 per participant. Mr. Cook said he views this as a first step to a longer process but this would address the immediate need to attach a program to the plans that currently exist.

Ms. Chin asked what it would mean to use the Plan and when does it kick-in that a person is using the Blue4U benefit. Mr. Foresti said a participant would get access to the web portal once they did the bio-metric screening. Ms. Chin asked how a person would be informed the Blue4U program is available if they wouldn't get access to the portal until they did the screening. Mr. Barber said there has not been any marketing done to date but there would have to be efforts made to work with Ms. Miller to ensure that everyone enrolled in a metal level plan was made aware of this voluntary program that would be at no cost to the participant. He will work with Ms. Miller on putting together marketing information to provide to anyone affected with a goal date of October 1st.

Mr. Barber said Ms. Miller circulated a Blue4U flyer at the last Board of Directors meeting to try to introduce the concept of the program. The coaching aspect was not included on the flyer and he thinks this should be included in the marketing information as this is one of the strongest aspects of the program. Mr. Foresti communicate with Ms. Miller so see that all materials are ready for the next meeting for review by this Committee and also shared with the Board of Directors at its September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Recommend Wellness Component**

It was MOVED by Mr. Schiele, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to recommend the Blue4U Program be included as the wellness component attached to the Metal Level Plans offered by the Consortium.

Mr. Schiele spoke of the evolution of this and referred to information frequently changing. He said he was under the assumption that the Affordable Care Act required a wellness component but is supportive of this growing into a much larger program. Ms. Chin

expressed support for this beginning slowly. Mr. Barber asked if Ms. Jobin if she had an opinion; she had no comment at this time.

The motion was carried unanimously by members present.

### **Next Agenda Items**

Mr. Cook said the Committee has devoted much of its time to the topic of the wellness component for metal level plans and said thought needs to be given to the next task the Committee takes on.

Ms. Chin said once the Board of Directors approves a wellness component there should be discussion of how to evaluate a program's success and suggested there be discussion of what the desired outcomes should be.

Mr. Cook asked members to submit suggestions on ideas prior to the next meeting of where this Committee should move in the future.

Mr. Schiele spoke of the importance of marketing and said a lot of what wellness is is promoting the means and behaviors for better health because people are not going to change until they not only know what is important but how to accomplish that. He questioned whether the Consortium would be marketing the metal level plans.

Mr. Barber said he doesn't think the role of the Consortium is to market any plan, it is to produce plans employers and employees want to have available and once a plan is available that has the Blue4U benefit there is a marketing opportunity to bring awareness because there would be something available that wasn't initially in place. Mr. Schiele said Mr. Barber has been visiting municipalities to market wellness and Mr. Barber clarified that the Consortium has a wellness policy that municipalities have been asked to adopt and has directed him to work with municipalities on that.

### **Meeting Time and Location**

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the meeting time will remain at 1:30 p.m.; however, meetings will be held in the Legislature Chambers for the remainder of the year.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Administrative Clerk