

**Owning Your Own Health Committee**  
**July 27, 2016 – Approved**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Legislature Chambers**

Present: Don Barber, Debby Kelley, Bev Chin (arrived at 3:09 p.m.), Leslie Moskowitz (arrived at 3:43 p.m.), Nancy Zahler, Ted Schiele; Olivia Hersey, Brooke Jobin, Judy Drake  
Present via conference call: Beth Miller, Excellus; Michael Larca, Kaleigh Rascoe, ProAct

**Call to Order**

Mr. Schiele called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Changes to the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2016**

It was MOVED by Ms. Zahler, seconded by Ms. Hersey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of June 15, 2016 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Barber reported on the status of logo development and said comments made by members of this Committee have been taken back and changes are in the process of being made.

Ms. Chin arrived at this time.

Mr. Barber reported that since this Committee met both the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design and the Audit and Finance Committees have approved a resolution that recommends the changes to the actuarial values for the coming year. In addition, the Joint Committee made a recommendation on benefit changes to achieve those values. They will be taking that information back to labor groups for discussion before a vote is taken. He commented that there was a very good discussion with a lot of compromises made that produced a workable recommendation. The Board of Directors will be approving plan changes at its September meeting.

Mr. Barber informed the Committee that he received notification from the Department of Financial Services that they will be performing another full audit of the Consortium. He said it is not known why another full audit is being performed only three years after the last one and will be looking into this further. In addition to providing the auditor with office space and equipment, the audit will cost the Consortium approximately \$25,000.

**Newsletter**

Mr. Barber said he will be working on the next issue of the newsletter and encouraged members to submit additional content topics. A suggestion was made to include information on smoking cessation. Ms. Miller said there is a smoking cessation program although there is a cost. Mr. Schiele explained the New York Quit Line provides two free weeks to patches or lozenges for those who are eligible (individuals who smoke more than one-half pack per day). He said there are no free cessation programs in Tompkins County. Mr. Larca responded to a

question by Ms. Jobin and said Chantix, inhalers, and nasal sprays are a covered benefit; however, require prior authorization. The gum and patches are excluded. Mr. Schiele asked if the prior authorization requirement is negotiable and Ms. Drake asked if there is a limitation on the number of times a person can get a prescription. It was suggested that there be an article written for the newsletter on ideas for how to be successful with smoking cessation.

Mr. Barber reported on municipal interest in the Consortium and said seven small municipalities have expressed interest and three of them have adopted resolutions. Mr. Barber also provided information from a consumer report "Is there a cure for the high cost of drugs?" which speaks from many viewpoints about rising cost of drugs, particularly specialty medications.

### **Discussion of CanaRx**

Mr. Barber said at the last meeting questions were raised regarding the Consortium moving forward with CanaRx. He contacted Mr. Larca with questions and asked him to provide responses to the following questions:

Would there be pushback from the Department of Financial Services or the FDA about this? Mr. Larca said in 2003 the FDA was assured that CanaRx's operations were in compliance and were not in violation of any Canada laws and the FDA has not raised an issue since that time. He said "there has been a single instance in which a counterfeit, defective, or erroneous medicine was dispensed" nor has there been any "criminal, administrative, regulatory prosecution of CanaRx". He said the company has been in business for 13 years. They are not a pharmacy; they are a service that works with Tier I countries to get medications from pharmaceutical manufacturers. It is a voluntary program for maintenance medications.

How long has ProAct worked with CanaRx and what has been the experience with its other book of business? Mr. Larca said they have worked with CanaRx for approximately five years and 23 percent of ProAct's book of business uses CanaRx. He said the prescription must be on paper versus being electronically submitted which can be additional work; however, the cost savings are approximately 80%. There are 300 brand name common medications that are covered. Refills are done on an automatic basis, although there initial prescription can take a couple of weeks to be filled. He said ProAct has several clients that are using CanaRx.

Ms. Hersey explained her experience using CanaRx and said she looked into the legality question and found there to be nothing illegal about the program and would result in great savings to both the member and the Consortium.

Ms. Drake said at the present time the County is being billed for CanaRx outside the Consortium and questioned how the billing would take place if the Consortium would use CanaRx. Mr. Barber referenced the minutes of the last meeting and said the Consortium would be directly billed by ProAct for use of CanaRx.

Ms. Jobin said in 2007 the County signed a memorandum of understanding with CanaRx for bargaining units and TC3. It was set up to be a contract between CanaRx and the member and employees were advised that if they chose to use the program it would be strictly between them and CanaRx. Since that time the County has paid the bill and forwarded TC3's bill to the College. On a monthly basis she sends CanaRx a roster of eligible employees. Ms. Jobin said she has heard no complaints about the program. At the present time the County has 18 participants in the program. She would like to know border seizure statistics and would like to explore having a small charge for prescriptions rather than having a zero-copay. She said

since the program began the member's price has not gone up; however, the amount the County and the College has been charged has risen. Mr. Larca said he would look into this.

Ms. Moskowitz arrived at this time.

Mr. Larca provided an example of savings and if there was 100% utilization the Consortium could save \$1.6 million.

Mr. Schiele spoke of the marketing component that would be needed to reach members if this program was offered Consortium-wide. The Committee discussed what its role would be in this and there was consensus that if members were supportive it could bring a recommendation forward. Mr. Barber said that recommendation would be made to the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design and to the Audit and Finance Committee. Ms. Zahler said the Committee would need a better understanding of this, including what additional administrative responsibility there would be to the Consortium. Ms. Hersey said there are still questions on how this can be made effective that need to be answered before pursuing a recommendation.

### **Flu Clinic Update**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO SPONSOR AND FUND FLU CLINICS FOR 2016 AND CONTINUE PHARMACY BENEFIT TO COVER FLU VACCINATION**

The Committee discussed the proposed schedule and locations for the Fall flu clinics. Mr. Barber said there had been discussing of having a clinic in the northeast or northwest corners of the County; however, after reaching out to benefit clerks in the Towns of Ulysses, Enfield, and Trumansburg area there was consensus that since there is a Kinney Drugstore in the area it wouldn't be worthwhile. The Town of Lansing is not interested in hosting but felt Bolton Point would be close enough. The Towns of Groton and Dryden were interested and they may be advised to use the Kinney Drugstore in Dryden.

Ms. Jobin said she would like to have a copy of all of the correspondence so that she can answer questions. She also suggested that promotional information clearly explain to members that they should use their ProAct card. It was suggested that this be an article in the September newsletter.

It was MOVED by Ms. Hersey, seconded by Ms. Jobin, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present to approve the following resolution with the friendly amendments suggested.

WHEREAS, the Owning Your Own Health Committee has discussed the results and feedback from Consortium-sponsored flu clinics that were held in 2014 and 2015 and believes the Consortium should continue to provide the opportunity for all eligible employees and retirees, spouses and dependents over the age of 19 to participate in flu shot clinics again in 2016, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has reviewed a proposal presented by ProAct to streamline the scheduling of flu clinics and to offer flu clinics to groups of 25 or more individuals at various locations, and

WHEREAS, when administered outside of a flu clinic a member is able to receive a vaccine with no co-pay or member cost through a medical provider as the cost is billed as a medical claim through Excellus, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Committee was presented with an option to recommend that a ProAct pharmacy benefit be added to allow members to receive a vaccine at a pharmacy with no co-pay or cost to the member, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Owning Your Own Health Committee, That the Board of Directors authorizes the Consortium to sponsor and fund flu clinics in 2016 for its members and authorizes ProAct, at the direction of each Consortium member, to develop and administer the clinics, and to submit a claim for payment by the Consortium for each shot provided to an eligible recipient at a cost not to exceed \$25 per shot,

RESOLVED, further, That ProAct is hereby directed to continue a pharmacy benefit to all Consortium members' coverage to allow members to receive a vaccine at any pharmacy with no co-pay or cost to the member.

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### **Blu4U Update**

Mr. Barber said a couple of conference calls have taken place with the Town of Ithaca, Tompkins County, and TC3 and they have a schedule to move forward next week. Ms. Drake asked for a report on the status of changes that were suggested during the calls. Mr. Barber asked Ms. Miller to work with Mr. Cornelius of Interactive Health Solutions as soon as possible since this will start soon. There are approximately 100 total potential participants.

### **Next Agenda Topics**

The following items were suggested for inclusion on the next agenda:

Additional information on CanaRx;  
Flu Clinic update;  
Logo development;  
Newsletter update;  
"Put Fruit to Work" and  
Blue4U rollout update

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.