

Owning Your Own Health Committee
Minutes – Approved
January 25, 2017
Legislature Chambers

Present: Leslie Moskowitz, Emily Mallar, Jackie Kippola, Brooke Jobin
Guests: Beth Miller, Excellus; Nina Butler (Integrated Health Solutions via conference call); Don Barber, Meghan Feeley, ProAct (via conference call)

Call to Order

Mr. Barber, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of November 30, 2016 Minutes

It was MOVED by Ms. Mallar, seconded by Ms. Moskowitz, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of November 30, 2016 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Executive Director's Report

CanaRx

Mr. Barber said the Board of Directors will be discussing CanaRx at this week's Board meeting. A webinar was held earlier in the month; however, it was poorly attended. Joe Scotti of CanaRx will be attending the meeting to make a presentation; the Consortium's attorney will also be in attendance to answer questions concerning his communication to the Consortium on this. Mr. Barber said in his letter there is reference to CanaRx not being approved by the FDA (Federal Drug Administration). CanaRx has been in operation for over ten years and there have been two cases that have been tried. In each case there was a pharmacy that was bringing a suit forward. In each case the judge ruled in favor of the pharmaceutical companies because the FDA had not signed off. He also requested an opinion from the Department of Financial Services and to date no response has been received. Steve Locey has done research on this and found that Putnam County which is an Article 47, has been audited by the DFS and during that audit they were using CanaRx. The State should have known they were doing business with CanaRx and made no findings in its audit. Mr. Barber said at this time there is no anecdotal data that says there will be any issues with the State nor has the FDA taken any actions towards CanaRx.

Ms. Kippola asked if Mr. Powers anticipated a need for the Consortium to have a contract with CanaRx. Mr. Barber said Mr. Powers reviewed and commented on the draft resolution but made no mention of having a contract. Mr. Barber said CanaRx will indemnify the Consortium but will not have a contract with the Consortium. The contracts will be with the subscribers. She responded that since the funds would come through the Consortium it would need to be protected. Ms. Jobin said there has been a Memorandum of Understanding but the County doesn't have a contract with CanaRx. She stated she continues to have concerns relative to policyholders and dependents not contributing to any copay towards the cost of the drugs and with members having prescriptions changed so it would fall within the CanaRx formulary.

Newsletter

Mr. Barber said the latest issue of the Newsletter is out and asked for comments on the content and also suggestions for future issues. Ms. Moskowitz commented that she felt a hyperlink contained in the issue was confusing and suggested future hyperlinks be checked. She also suggested including a reference to March being Nutrition Month and information on CSAs in the next issue.

Mr. Barber commented that he received a comment from Tim Farrell who is a member of the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design that he had not seen the newsletter. Ms. Moskowitz handles distribution for the City and will look into this.

4th Tier for Prescription Drugs

Mr. Barber said the Joint Committee has been discussing what it would look like to create a fourth tier for prescription drugs with copay assistance through Noble pharmacies. There have been a lot of good questions and information is being developed on how it might affect premiums. This would be something that could be made a part of some or all of the Metal Level plans but would have to be negotiated for other plans. The reason for looking at this is because ProAct has informed the Consortium that by 2020 specialty drug costs will be a major issue.

DFS (Department of Financial Services) Audit

Mr. Barber reported DFS has finished its audit. A meeting was held with Department representatives on January 6th to discuss audit findings; most of the biggest issues relate to ProAct and he has begun working with ProAct to address those items. He expects DFS to provide a draft report to the Consortium in March.

New Director Orientation

Mr. Barber said he and Mr. Locey will be meeting to orient new Directors on February 10th.

Blue4U Update

Ms. Miller said at the beginning of January the Blue4U “Three Steps” campaign was rolled out. Although there were not a lot of people on the call they reached out to each of the towns and provided the material. She said they tried to simplify the 1-2-3 program because members who are utilizing the plan are doing the self-lab to test. She asked that members be reminded to call the 800 number and request a packet. She will also e-mail a packet to the Consortium. The last chance for members to have their lab testing will be the week of March 1st. Anyone who comes on to a plan within the year will have the benefit but the campaign will be focused between January and March. Ms. Miller spoke of next steps and said information will be posted on the Consortium’s website.

Information was distributed on a two-page document explaining what a health evaluation is, what the meaning of a goal is, how a score is calculated, what the program can do, and resources to keep people engaged throughout the year. Ms. Miller said benefit clerks will be used to help push information out to members and they will be the focal point. Ms. Butler explained the “Your Resources” document and said she will forward a copy of the monthly webinar calendar.

Flu Clinic Update

Ms. Feeley provided information on the 2016 flu clinics and asked for feedback on whether there is anything that ProAct can do to improve the program or to increase the number of members who receive a flu vaccine next year. She said there were several people who attended the first clinic and will see that next year there are two pharmacists at that location. She will send information electronically to Ms. Pottorff on a breakdown by municipality. Ms. Jobin said she would like to see information showing the total population of each municipality to identify what percentage received the flu vaccine. Mr. Barber asked if Ms. Miller could provide information on the total number of members who received flu shots that were processed by Excellus.

Continue Discussion of Promoting the Concept of Wellness: channels, methods, & resources for reaching our audience

Mr. Barber said he and Mr. Schiele have discussed and agree on is that a wellness plan needs to be supported and pushed out from the top. He asked members to think about whether there have been programs that have had support from the top that have been successful and how that happened. He spoke of specialty drug costs and in order to keep costs under control it will be important to raise awareness and provide members with strategies. He said one idea that the Town of Dryden used in the past was to provide weekly fruit baskets to their employees as a way to make them aware of whole foods and employees were asked to contribute as well.

Ms. Kippola said for the first time in over 20 years the County hosted an employee picnic last summer at Stewart Park. She said a lot of energy went into it and it was extremely successful. She said this kind of event may be an opportunity to include a wellness component. Another low-key event was an employee bocci ball tournament held in Dewitt Park that she thinks also went-over well with employees. She thinks events are something people look forward to.

Ms. Kippola spoke of the importance of the Consortium's identity and branding, and suggested the logo be included on any material that is distributed to members of the Consortium.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.