



Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

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"Individually and collectively we invest in realizing high quality, affordable, dependable health insurance."

MINUTES – APPROVED

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design June 3, 2021 – 1:30 p.m. Zoom Video Conference Call

Present:

Municipal Representatives: 15 members

Alex Patterson, Town of Aurelius; Mark Witmer, Town of Caroline (arrived at 2:10 p.m.); Eric Snow, Town of Virgil; Judy Drake, Town of Ithaca and Board of Directors Chair; D. Dawson, Village of Horseheads; Mack Cook, City of Cortland; Schelley Michell-Nunn, City of Ithaca; Ronny Hardaway, Village of Lansing; Bud Shattuck, Village of Union Springs; Laura Shawley, Town of Danby (arrived at 1:35 p.m.); Amanda Anderson, Town of Dryden; Sarah Thomas, Tompkins County; Stephanie Redmond, Town of Enfield; Charmagne Rumgay, Town of Lansing; Tom Gray, Town of Sennett

Municipal Representatives via Proxy: 3 members

Tom Brown, Town of Truxton (Proxy – Eric Snow); Betty Conger, Village of Groton (Proxy – Charmagne Rumgay); Schelley Michelle Nunn, City of Ithaca (Proxy – Judy Drake)

Union Representatives: 8 members

James Bower, Bolton Point; Jonathan Walz-Koeppel, TC3 Prof. Admin. Assoc. Unit; Zack Nelson, Ithaca City Admin. Unit; Nancy Webster, TC - Blue Collar Unit - CSEA #855; Ian Tompkins, City of Ithaca DPW Unit; Jeanne Grace, City of Ithaca Executive Unit; Melissa Schmidt, TC3 Faculty Association; Jon Munson, Town of Ithaca Teamsters

Union Representatives via Proxy: 2 members

Teresa Viza, TC Library Staff Unit (Proxy – Jim Bower); Kate Devoe, Tompkins County - Library Professional (Proxy – Jim Bower)

Others in attendance:

Sunday Earle, TC3; Robert Spenard, Paul Pelton, Locey, Locey & Cahill; Corey Prashaw, ProAct; Elin Dowd, Executive Director; Teri Apalovich, Finance Manager, Michelle Cocco, Clerk of the Board; Kelly Lasher, Nora Putnam, Terry Godfrey; Jason Warchal, and Dr. Harris, Excellus; Nicole Zulu, Human Services Coalition; Leslie Moskowitz, City of Ithaca

Call to Order

Mr. Bower, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2021

It was MOVED by Mr. Snow, seconded by Ms. Webster, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of April 1, 2021 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Committee Chair's Report

Mr. Bower reported there continues to be two vacant Labor seats on the Board of Directors. Any member interested in serving were asked to let him or Ms. Dowd know.

Report from Board Chair

Ms. Drake reported the Committee met on May 5th and discussed strategic planning for the Consortium. They are looking at the vision of where the Consortium wants to go, create some aspirations, and work on goals and objectives with the Executive Director. She said as things progress the Committee will be looking at the Open Meetings Law (OML) and how meetings are held going forward. She thinks it has been beneficial, particularly to this Committee to utilize Zoom and asked members to provide feedback on how meetings are held going forward.

Mrs. Shawley arrived at this time.

At the next meeting on July 6th the Committee will begin to discuss the 2022 Budget.

Executive Director

Ms. Dowd said discussions have been taking place on how to keep Committee members engaged. Meeting polls will now be incorporated into meetings as a way to encourage participation and get feedback from members that will help with the Consortium's strategic planning efforts. Ms. Dowd said May is Mental Health month and it is important to check-in to see how people are doing and conducted a poll of how members were feeling. Ms. Dowd reported on Consortium staffing. Teri Apalovich has taken over all of the responsibilities previously performed by Jessica Hobart; any enrollment changes should now go to her.

Ms. Dowd said information related to the BCBS Class Action Lawsuit and on new identification cards being issued has been sent to municipalities and asked if anyone hasn't received this information to let her know. These topics will also be included in the Newsletter that will be distributed shortly.

Ms. Dowd reported the Operations Committee is in the process of reviewing responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Prescription Benefit Management Services and will make a recommendation to the Board in August. The Claims and Appeals Committee is going through the process of reviewing the results of the medical claims audit performed by BMI for 2018 and 2019. This audit looked at how Excellus adjudicates claims according to the Consortium's plan documents. Ms. Dowd reported the Nominations and Engagement Committee is looking at terms that are expiring at year-end and asked members to consider getting more involved and filling a vacant committee.

In response to a question from Ms. Earle, Ms. Lasher of Excellus explained that a new identification card will go to each dependent at the address on file for that dependent. In situations where households are split a subscriber will have to request a second set of cards for a second

Presentation of Excellus Utilization Report

Kelly Lasher, Nora Putnam, Jason Warchal, and Dr. Harris from Excellus presented the Consortium's 2020 Annual Utilization Report of claims incurred January 1, 2020 and paid through March 31, 2021. A copy of the full report is available on the Consortium's website at [http://healthconsortium.net/sites/default/files/Financials/2020/2020%20Greater%20Tompkins%20Consortium%20Annual%20Report%20\(2020\)%2020210603%20Final%20.pdf](http://healthconsortium.net/sites/default/files/Financials/2020/2020%20Greater%20Tompkins%20Consortium%20Annual%20Report%20(2020)%2020210603%20Final%20.pdf)

Highlights from the report are as follows:

- During the year 2020, enrolment has increased by 3% while services were 6% lower. Plan Costs were 2% higher than the prior period.
- Through the end of April 2021 there were 934 members that were fully vaccinated, including 42 members that had the single dose vaccine.
- High Claimants increased from 28 to 32 and high claimant costs accounted for 21% of Plan Costs in 2020. Previously, high claimants had accounted for 19% of plan costs.
- Eight of the top ten claimants are forecasted to have claims over \$50K in 2021.
- MDLive (telemedicine) registration and utilization has increased. Both acute and behavioral health visits were higher in 2020 than in the prior year.
- Emergency Room utilization for low acuity visits has decreased and is comparable to the comparison trend.
- Depression & Anxiety was the top prevalent condition in 2020, representing 26% of the population.

Mr. Witmer arrived at this time.

Ms. Dowd thanked Excellus for the presentation and stated the Committee can use the information to advance education on utilizing the health care benefits that employees have. It can also be used to partner on wellness initiatives such as primary care, preventive health, utilizing the Well Frame application, and effective use of having Excellus Case Managers who are involved in care.

Wellness

At this time a poll of members was initiated asking members if they received information relating to May being Mental Health Awareness Month. A majority of responders indicated they received the information. Ms. Dowd noted that going forward a question will be asked if and how the information is being circulated to employees.

Ms. Dowd said the Consortium will focus on June being Employee Wellness Month and throughout the month will also promote other information such as primary care, preventive health, and the Well Frame application. A third poll was initiated asking for feedback on the June wellness topic and a proposed Employee Well-Being Challenge aimed at getting employees involved in wellness activities. A fourth poll questioned members for ideas of what type of prizes should be offered for winners of the competition. Members were supportive of the holding the Challenge and suggested there be a mix of small and large prizes. Members were supportive of the Challenge and offered suggestions for prizes that included gift certificate for work-out clothes, gift card to local restaurant, admission to State Park, farmers market gift certificate, exercise equipment, gym gift, and Consortium swag items.

A communication will be sent out to Benefit Clerks to announce the Employee Well-Being Challenge and related information for circulation to employees who subscribe to a Consortium benefit plan.

Finance Report

Mr. Spenard provided a financial update through April 30, 2021 and said revenue was 1.8% below budget and overall expenses were 4.6% below budget (medical-6.3% and prescription drug 18%). The net income through this period was \$144,000. Mr. Spenard reported at this time \$.95 of every dollar received goes towards the payment of claims; this continues to demonstrate the Consortium is running in an extremely efficient manner.

Next Agenda Topics

The following items were suggested during the meeting for inclusion in the next agenda:

- Appointment Labor Directors to fill two vacancies;
- Continued education on prescription formulary;
- Follow-up on Excellus and ProAct Utilization Reports
- Wellness Calendar

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.