



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 November 1, 2018 – 1:30 p.m. Rice Conference Room, Health Department

Present:

Municipal Representatives: 8 members

Eric Snow, Town of Virgil; Judy Drake, Town of Ithaca and Board of Directors Chair; Betty Conger, Village of Groton; Bud Shattuck, Village of Union Springs; Charmagne Rungay, Town of Lansing; Ann Rider, Town of Enfield; Carissa Parlato, Town of Ulysses; Schelley Michell Nunn, City of Ithaca

Municipal Representative via Proxy: 6

Sandy Doty (Proxy – Judy Drake); Tom Brown, Town of Truxton (Proxy – Eric Snow); Jennifer Case (Proxy – Judy Drake); Mark Witmer, Town of Caroline (Proxy – Judy Drake); Jeff Walker, Village of Cayuga Heights (Proxy – Judy Drake); Sarah Thomas (Proxy – Judy Drake)

Union Representatives: 4 members

Olivia Hersey, TC3 Professional Admin. Assoc. Unit; Tim Farrell, City of Ithaca DPW Unit; Jeanne Grace, City of Ithaca Executive Unit; Jon Munson, Town of Ithaca Teamsters

Union Representatives via Proxy: 3

Tim Arnold, Town of Dryden DPW Teamsters (Proxy – Tim Farrell); Theresa Viza, Tompkins County Library Staff Unit (Proxy – Olivia Hersey); Jim Bower, Bolton Point Water (Proxy – Olivia Hersey)

Others in attendance:

Ted Schiele, Chair, Owing Your Own Health Committee; Chuck Guild, CSEA; Beth Miller, Jason Warchal, Excellus

Call to Order

Ms. Hersey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

The minutes of the September 5 and October 4, 2018 meetings were deferred due to lack of quorum.

Chair's Report

Ms. Hersey, Chair, strongly encouraged everyone to get a flu shot if they haven't already done so. She said she read the minutes from the last meeting and emphasized the importance in getting a sixth Labor representative to the Board of Directors. She recognized the distance for some labor to attend meetings and said she will be reaching out to Chuck Guild of CSEA to

facilitate getting a remote site established for members to attend from Seneca County through videoconferencing.

Mr. Schiele responded to questions concerning the turnout to flu clinics and said all data has not been received. He spoke to a comment by Ms. Drake that it was reported individuals 65 years of age and older were turned away at a clinic because of a different vaccination being available for that population. He said Mr. Prashaw of ProAct was informed of this at the Own Your Own Health Committee meeting yesterday and is looking into it and will report back.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Hersey read the following report on behalf of Mr. Barber who was unable to attend:

"The Owing Your Own Health Committee has been focusing efforts on support Wellness Consultant Michelle Berry, and ProAct with flu clinics. Flu clinic numbers on both sites and vaccines given are up over last Fall. Persons covered by our plans can still go to pharmacies and their doctor's office for vaccines. Our newsletter spoke to some Frequently Asked questions about flu vaccines. The Committee is supporting the benefit fairs with both Tompkins County and City of Ithaca. We will be working to increase subscriber usage of our metal plan wellness benefit: Blue4U; as well as increasing awareness of Blue 365 program available to all through Excellus.

"Now that budget work is complete the Audit and Finance Committee is working on contract extension documents for Excellus, ProAct, our plan consultant Steve Locey, and support services provided by the County. The Committee is also working on securing the mandatory Stop-Loss insurance coverage and Directors & Officers Insurance for 2019. And it is negotiating a contract with Wilmington Trust for Investment Management of our Reserve and Fund Balance moneys.

"The Website Committee, with a ton of support and work by Michelle Cocco have the new website launched. Michelle will give you a brief introduction. Although we frown on Committee members viewing their mobile devices during our meetings, if you have one turn it on, go to our website healthconsortium.net and follow along."

At this time members were provided with a presentation on the Consortium's new website. Mr. Schiele invited members to provide suggestions for instructional videos that will be posted on the website. Ms. Miller explained the difference between the Benefits Summary and the Summary of Benefits Coverage (SBC) document. She said the SBC is a required administrative document that came out of Health Care Reform. The purpose of the document is to have a standard format for members to be able to compare plans. It is a system-generated document and is in the regulatory required format. The Benefits Summary is produced by Excellus and is more user-friendly. Ms. Drake called attention to plan documents now being available on the website.

Introduction of Telemedicine

Ms. Miller said Telemedicine will be launched on January 1, 2019 and will be available to all members of the Consortium at no additional cost; it uses the same cost share that is included in a member's plan. Telemedicine is the remote delivery of healthcare services using electronic technology such as a telephone or videoconferencing via a smartphone, computer, or tablet. It provides low cost access to virtual healthcare when a primary care physician is unavailable. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. She spoke of the cost of care and said a Telemedicine visit cost is \$40. This compares to a primary care office visit average cost range of \$75-\$200, urgent care range of \$80-\$200, and an Emergency Room visit of \$950-

\$1,800. This is another low-cost option for members to seek care for non-emergency conditions that is available at all times.

Ms. Miller introduced Jason Warchal, a Workplace Wellness and Telemedicine Strategic Partner Specialist at Excellus. Beginning on the Excellus webpage he walked members through the process of how to sign up for MDLive and schedule an appointment with a physician. He responded to a question by Ms. Drake and said anyone 18 years of age or older would need to register for their own MDLive account. At this time there are very few local doctors that are providing service through this program; however, the program continues to grow. The mobile application is "MDLive"; he recommended that members wait until January 1, 2019 to download the application. It was suggested that the instructional videos from the Excellus website be embedded on the Consortium's video.

Ms. Drake said currently a doctor's office will ask to see a patient in person rather than prescribe a prescription over the phone and asked if that will change because doctors are currently not allowed to bill unless they have seen a patient. Ms. Miller said its possible this will drive other changes to happen. Following the presentation Ms. Parlato suggested the Consortium to develop educational materials on programs such as this and CanaRX that benefit clerks could provide to employees.

Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to cancel its December meeting; a decision on whether to hold a meeting in January will be made at a later time.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Administrative Clerk