

Minutes – APPROVED
Nominations and Engagement Committee
June 10, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.
Meeting held Remotely via Zoom Video

Present via remote: Gary Mutchler (Committee Chair); Kate DeVoe; Judith Drake; Rordan Hart

Excused:

Absent:

Vacancy: One seat

Staff/Guests via remote: Elin Dowd, Executive Director; Lynne Sheldon, Clerk of the Board, Teri Apalovich, Finance Manager; Kylie Rodrigues, Benefits Specialist

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order

Mr. Mutchler called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2023 & August 14, 2023

It was MOVED by Ms. DeVoe, seconded by Mr. Hart, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present via Zoom to approve the minutes of April 10, 2023 & August 14, 2023, as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Dowd reported the Consortium has been spending a significant amount of time speaking with several potential new members. Ms. Dowd said recent news sources have reported that Excellus has asked the Department of Financial Services (DFS) for a rate increase of up to 20% next year. She said when Excellus requests an increase to DFS, Excellus will then send out letters to all their current members, which would also indicate to them a 20% possible increase as well for their community rated fully insured plans.

Ms. Dowd said that the Consortium staff was busy today participating in a mental health awareness training that was part of one of the Consortium's Wellness Programs. She said approximately 20 individuals were in attendance from several municipalities.

Ms. Dowd also reported the Executive Committee was meeting this week and plan to look at the current budget. She said the Consortium has received two rebate checks this quarter, which is helping cash flow. She said claims are still increasing, with prescription drug claims currently over budget.

Ms. Dowd reported the Consortium has been actively working on Summary Plan Description (SPD) approvals with DFS to ensure the benefit plans are completely up to date. She said 2023 is now complete, and 2024 is almost completed.

Ms. Dowd stated that the Consortium is looking into changes to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement (MCA) in hopes that the Consortium can streamline the whole approval process for policies and minimize annual MCA updates.

Ms. Dowd said that she had found out good news earlier in the day that the Consortium passed the actuarial value analysis of the Consortium's plans. Therefore, no plan changes will be required for 2025.

Slate of Candidates (See Appendix A)

Ms. Dowd said the Consortium staff is considering the possibility of consolidating some Sub-Committees, or discussing if responsibilities could be split up and/or be a section of the Executive Committee. She said the staff will continue this conversation.

Ms. Dowd reviewed the draft resolution Creation of 2025 Committee Structure and Appointment of Members shown below (Appendix A) and discussed the current and future vacancies.

Ms. Dowd said that Steve Thayer, the Consortium's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), has retired, and she has been informed that the City of Ithaca has currently appointed two individuals – the Deputy Director of Finance, and their Accounts Payable Coordinator, who are both acting dually as the Interim Controller roles.

Ms. Dowd said the City of Ithaca, notified the Consortium that Accounts Payable Coordinator, Wendy Cole, will be serving in Steve Thayer's role. Ms. Dowd said when any changes are made that affect the direction of the MCA, the Consortium must communicate those changes with the DFS. Ms. Dowd said the DFS suggested the Consortium inquire if possibly another municipal member had a CFO to serve as the Consortium's CFO. Ms. Dowd said the Consortium approached Tompkins County and asked if their Director of Finance would be willing to fill that position. Tompkins County agreed that their Director, Lorrie Scarrott, could serve in that capacity on a temporary basis until the Board of Directors can ratify the appointment through an MCA amendment.

Ms. Dowd then asked the committee for feedback regarding filling one of the At-Large open seats on the Executive Committee with Ms. Cole to represent the City of Ithaca. Ms. Drake said she was in favor, so that the City had a larger role within the committees.

Mr. Mutchler asked if members had suggestions of any other individuals who may be interested in filling the At-Large seats. Ms. Dowd said Amie Hendrix, City of Geneva, would be willing to serve in that capacity, and Elizabeth Weatherby, Town of Ulysses, might be interested in attending meetings to familiarize herself with the committee meetings this year, and be considered as a candidate for 2025.

MOTION 003-2024 TO RECOMMEND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPOINT WENDY COLE & AMIE HENDRIX TO SERVE IN AT-LARGE SEAT FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; SCOTT STEVE TO REPLACE LISA HENTY; MELISSA GREENTHAL TO REPLACE RITA MCCARTHY FOR THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

It was MOVED by Mr. Mutchler, seconded by Ms. Drake, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present in person, to recommend to the Executive Committee to appoint Wendy Cole and Amie Hendrix to serve in At-Large Seat for the Executive Committee, Scott Steve to replace Lisa Henty, and Melissa Greenthal to replace Rita McCarthy for the Operations Committee (MG effective 8.1.24). MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Drake asked when Lisa Holmes retires at the end of the year if there has been discussion with who would replace her role with the Consortium. Ms. Dowd said she has had a conversation with Ms. Holmes about thinking strategically with the Chair of who may replace her. Mr. Hart asked the committee to consider the possibility of asking one of the more engaged legislators if they would be interested in filling Ms. Holmes' seat.

Board Meeting Agendas

Ms. Dowd asked Committee members if they had any topics that they would like to add to the agendas of the upcoming Board of Director's Educational Session, and the yearly Board of Director's Meeting. She said that one topic will be the increasing cost of prescription drugs and what the driving factors are. Ms. Drake asked what types of questions the Consortium has been receiving. Ms. Dowd said at the beginning of the year the Consortium received many questions during the transition of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM). Ms. Rodrigues said she has received many questions on Lifetime Benefits Solutions when they took over to manage the COBRA for small groups, and questions regarding the wellness program. Ms. DeVoe said people have been hearing about the potential cuts from the county budget, and how does that impact one's health insurance. Ms. Drake also suggested information provided at the Utilization Review during the May Joint Committee meeting.

Resolution: Appointment to Replace CFO for GTCMHIC

Ms. Dowd referred to earlier Committee discussion regarding DFS approval of the replacement of the City of Ithaca Controller with the Tompkins County Finance Director to serve as the Consortium's Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Dowd reiterated that DFS has not approved this request from the Consortium yet; however, DFS did sound favorable when the Consortium staff discussed this proposal with them. DFS asked the Consortium to submit information, which they are in receipt of, and the Consortium is awaiting their response.

RESOLUTION NO. XXX- 2024 – APPOINTMENT TO REPLACE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER (CFO) FOR GREATER TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM (GTCMHIC)

MOVED by Ms. Drake, seconded by Ms. DeVoe, the resolution was adopted by voice vote of members present, and visibly seen members via remote.

WHEREAS, The Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (GTCMHIC) is a self-insured municipal cooperative health benefit plan operating pursuant to Article 47 of the New York State Health Insurance Law, and

WHEREAS, under Section 4705 (6) of NYS Insurance Law the GTCMHIC must designate a Fiscal Officer of a participating municipal corporation to be the Chief Fiscal Officer of the municipal cooperative health benefit plan, and

WHEREAS, the GTCMHIC 2024 Municipal Cooperative Agreement (MCA) states in Section I (Number 1-8), various duties and responsibilities associated as the GTCMHIC Chief Fiscal Officer and names “The Chief Fiscal Officer shall be the City Controller of the City of Ithaca”, and

WHEREAS, per Resolution 1 of 2011, the GTCMHIC Board of Directors named and elected Mr. Steven Thayer, City of Ithaca’s Controller, to serve as the GTCMHIC Chief Fiscal Officer, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thayer served as the GTCMHIC Chief Fiscal Officer since 2011 and has recently retired from his position with the City of Ithaca, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca has been actively searching for a replacement for Mr. Thayer’s position, which has resulted in multiple failed searches and the City is not able to provide a time frame that a new search/hiring will be completed.

WHEREAS, for reasons indicated above, the GTCMHIC has explored having their Executive Committee appoint the Director of Finance for Tompkins County to serve as GTCMHIC Chief Fiscal Officer, and with the support of the County will be able to act in that capacity for the GTCMHIC, and

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Nomination & Engagement Committee, That the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, recommends and approves the replacement of the City of Ithaca Controller, with the Tompkins County Finance Director to now serve as the GTCMHIC’s Chief Fiscal Officer until such time that the Board of Directors can ratify this appointment through a Municipal Cooperative Agreement amendment.

Future Agenda Topics

Additional Discussion of Slate of Candidates

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Sheldon, Clerk of the Board

Appendix A

Lynne to add "Creation of 2025 Committee Structure and Appointments of Members" after converting to PDF