



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
October 7, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference Call**

Present:

Municipal Representatives: 15 members

Eric Snow, Town of Virgil; Judy Drake, Town of Ithaca and Board of Directors Chair; 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; Jeff Walker, Village of Cayuga Heights; Betty Conger, Village of Groton; Carissa Parlato, Town of Ulysses; Sarah Thomas, Tompkins County; Stephanie Redmond, Town of Enfield (arrived at 1:45 p.m.); Mark Witmer, Town of Caroline (arrived at 1:33 p.m.); Susie Gutenberger, Lansing Community Library; Amanda Anderson, Town of Dryden

Municipal Representatives via Proxy: 3 members

Ed Wagner, Town of Owasco (Proxy – Jim Bower); Tom Brown, Town of Truxton (Proxy – Eric Snow); Tom Gray, Town of Sennett (Proxy – Betty Conger)

Union Representatives: 7 members

James Bower, Bolton Point; Jonathan Walz-Koeppel, TC3 Prof. Admin. Assoc. Unit; Zack Nelson, Ithaca City Admin. Unit (arrived at 1:33 p.m.); Nancy Webster, Tompkins County Blue Collar Unit - CSEA #855; Ian Tompkins, City of Ithaca DPW Unit; Elizabeth Hujar, TCPL Support Staff; Kate DeVoe, TCPL Professional Staff

Union Representatives via Proxy: 3 members

Tim Arnold, Town of Dryden Teamsters (Proxy – Jim Bower); Jon Munson, Town of Ithaca Teamsters, Town of Dryden Highway (Proxy – Jim Bower); Jeanne Grace, City of Ithaca Executive Unit (Proxy – Ian Tompkins)

Others in attendance:

Elin Dowd, Executive Director; Teri Apalovich, Finance Manager; Michelle Cocco, Clerk of the Board; Kylie Rodrigues, Benefits Specialist; Jason Warchal, Excellus; Rob Spenard, Locey & Cahill; Leslie Moskowitz, City of Ithaca; Chuck Guild, CSEA; Corey Prashaw, Morgan Randazzo, ProAct

Call to Order

Mr. Bower, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of August 5, 2021

It was MOVED by Ms. Webster, seconded by Mr. Snow, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of August 5, 2021 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Witmer arrived at this time.

Committee Chair's Report

Mr. Bower reported he continues working on filling Labor vacancies on the Board of Directors. He said on this Committee there are many labor groups that do not participate and other existing vacancies in labor seats that he would like to get filled; he asked members to provide any known contact information and he will reach out to those groups.

Report from Board/Executive Committee Chair

Ms. Dowd reported on behalf of Ms. Drake and said the Board of Directors approved the 2022 budget at its annual meeting on September 23rd. The budget includes a 5% premium rate increase to all plans and all participating municipalities within the Consortium have received this information. The Board approved four new members including two from the expanded territory that includes Onondaga County. Those municipalities are the Towns of Erwin and Throop and the Villages of Fayetteville and Minoa. They bring a total of approximately 80 new members into the Consortium.

Ms. Dowd said as the Consortium continues to grow questions have been raised about how to plan to effectively grow and continue to have stable rates; the Executive Committee will have strategic planning discussions to plan for growth. She reported the Board also approved a new Prescription Benefit Management contract with ProAct and said the new contract includes some provisions for some improved customer service items. Also, Corey Prashaw will be moving into a new position; Morgan Randazzo will be taking over as the Consortium's Account Manager.

Committee Poll

A poll was initiated at this time with the question "How do you manage your mental health? The responses ranged from exercise, spending time with loved ones, spending time outside representing the majority of responses with meditation, mental health therapy, and journaling being less common.

Executive Director

Ms. Dowd announced the Consortium has been working with Excellus and ProAct to come up with a single identification card for members to use for both medical and prescription drug claims. Also, members should be receiving a postcard with a magnet in the mail informing them that there is now a dedicated customer service number for Consortium subscribers. She expects this will be a great improvement in service provided to Benefit Clerks and members.

In response to a question as to whether Lifetime Benefit Solutions (LBS) could also be included on the card Ms. Dowd said it cannot. This is because the services they provide is the result of an arrangement between the employer and LBS, and not the Consortium; different employers have arrangements with other providers. She said there are ongoing discussions about how there can be improvements made to relationships with those types of vendors. Lastly,

she reported an important meeting will be held on October 18th and 19th with Benefit Clerks to ensure everyone is ready for 2022.

Ms. Redmond arrived at this time.

**RESOLUTION NO. - 2021 – ADDITION OF PHARMACY BENEFIT OPTION –
VACCINATIONS**

Ms. Dowd explained that currently a member must receive a vaccination from their Primary Care Physician or a medical provider for any vaccine other than for a flu or Covid; they cannot receive other vaccines at a pharmacy. This resolution will not only be more cost effective for members and the Consortium as a whole, but will provide members with additional access to vaccines while continuing to have the option to obtain a vaccine through an office visit.

MOVED by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mrs. Shawley, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

WHEREAS, the Consortium wishes to add an option for eligible members to have all medically appropriate immunizations and/or vaccinations, as defined by the medical policies covered when said vaccinations are administered by a pharmacist at an in-network pharmacy and billed to the Consortium's Prescription Benefit Manager, and

WHEREAS, this benefit will provide a more cost-effective option for members and the Consortium as a whole, and

WHEREAS, this additional benefit would provide members with additional access to vaccines while continuing to have the option to obtain a vaccine through an office visit, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design, That the Executive Committee hereby approves the addition of a benefit option for members to have all medically appropriate immunizations and/or vaccinations administered through an in-network pharmacy and billed to the Prescription Benefit Manager.

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2020 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Dowd presented a proposal to meet quarterly in 2022 in February, May, August, and November with special meetings scheduled if a need arises, particularly if needed to discuss the results of the Actuarial Value Calculator results. Members were receptive of having fewer but potentially longer meetings in 2022. Mr. Bower suggested members directly provide input and get involved with the Consortium's wellness initiatives. Ms. Dowd said since the Consortium now has a Benefits Specialist, members will be seeing things much more in advance and will have an opportunity to provide feedback.

Wellness

Committee Poll

A poll was initiated at this time asking members "Are you aware of external mental health resources of support you could access?" 77% responded yes; 23% of the

responders responded. Ms. Rodrigues spoke of the upcoming Benefits Clerk Training and asked members to encourage Benefit Clerks to attend.

She said members received information on the October Breast Cancer Awareness promotion in the agenda packet and encouraged participation to wear pink on October 22nd. She reported on this year's Maintain Don't Gain Challenge that is focused on maintaining weight, not losing weight, during the holiday season. The Challenge will run from November 1st to January 2nd. She presented suggestions for prizes and asked for feedback from members.

The following prize suggestions and comments were received:

Something that isn't restricted to a local business; Gift card; Empire pass; I like that there are options that can benefit a whole family; Fit bit; I agree with online/remote options; gift certificates to a place in their area; food; Advantage sport or some other sporting goods equipment store; something to highlight Blue 365; giving people a choice for a specific dollar amount; massage; T-shirt; high-quality N95s; water bottle, towel; food scales; paring knife; reusable produce bags; bicycle for raffle; gift cards for smaller dollar amounts (even \$5 for a coffee) seems better to me than freebies (at my work these kinds of gifts often wind up on the free table or the trash); repeated suggestions for a gas card.

Mr. Warchal will provide Ms. Rodrigues with additional suggestions.

Wellness Calendar

Ms. Rodrigues reviewed the proposed 2022 Wellness Calendar and asked members to provide feedback.

Facebook

Ms. Rodrigues said there have been discussions at by Consortium staff about different ways to connect with membership and how Facebook may provide benefits in terms of having direct interaction with members and providing wellness information. She provided a presentation on a proposal for the Consortium to have a Facebook page versus a group. She explained the differences between a page and group, demonstrating how a page is requires a lesser administrative burden on the Consortium. Members initially expressed support in the proposal; the presentation will continue at the next meeting.

Financial Update

Mr. Spenard provided a financial overview thru August 31, 2021, stating premium is slightly below budget due to the movement of members to the Platinum and Medicare Supplement Plans. He said three prescription drug rebates have been received and there have been no Stop Loss reimbursements as no members have gone over the \$1 million deductible. He said overall, Consortium expenses were 1.7% below budget and net income was slightly over budget.

Next Agenda Topics

The Facebook presentation will continue at the next meeting in December.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.