

**West Suburban Health Group  
Steering Committee Meeting**

Monday, May 8, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Natick Community Senior Center, Natick, MA

**Meeting Minutes**

**Steering Committee Members in Attendance:**

Dan Morgado, Chair	Town of Shrewsbury
Marc Waldman, Board Chair	Town of Wellesley
John Senchyshyn	Town of Wayland
Jerry Lane	Town of Dover
Jim Kern	Town of Dedham
Martha White	Town of Natick

**Guests in Attendance:**

Anne Costello	WSHG Asst. Treasurer
Christine Fowler	Town of Shrewsbury
Donna Lemoyne	Town of Wayland
Karen Jelloe	Town of Wrentham
Mary Bousquet	Town of Holliston
Linda Clark	Town of Natick
Miriam Johnson	Town of Dedham
Debbie Deegan	Town of Dedham
Dave Ramsay	Town of Dover
Bill McAlduff	Dover-Sherborn RSD
Michael Follick	Abacus Health Solutions
Linda Loiselle	Abacus Health Solutions
Joe Wroblewski	Abacus Health Solutions
Amanda Adams	Abacus Health Solutions
Erin Hayes	Tufts Health Plan
Julia LeBrun	Fallon Health
Jonathan Payson	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA
Kate Sharry	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Dan Craig	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Chris Nunnally	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies (GBS)

Steering Committee Chair Dan Morgado called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

**Approval of the minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting:**

Dan Morgado asked to have the motion to go into Executive Session be written as, "At 2:50 PM, Dan Morgado, the Steering Committee Chairman said that the Steering Committee will now go into executive session pursuant to General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3.) in order to discuss strategy with respects to litigation as I declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the West Suburban Health Group (WSHG). The litigation matter involves the Town of Sherborn's financial obligations under the WSHG Joint

Motion

Purchase Agreement. Further, the Steering Committee will not return to Open Session.” He asked the health plan representatives to leave.

Marc Waldman moved to approve the March 28th minutes as amended.

John Senchyshyn seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Presentation by Abacus Health Solutions/Prescription Benefits Services:**

Mike Follick thanked the Steering Committee for the opportunity to speak about Abacus’s value proposition, and he distributed a presentation. He said the 4 components of the proposition are Safety, Liability, Security and Savings. He said Abacus has been remiss in presenting only the financial reports regularly to WSHG. Mr. Follick said Abacus is much more than that, and he introduced the others who would be speaking: Joe Wroblewski, Linda Loiselle and Amanda Adams, pharmacist.

Martha White joined the meeting.

Linda Loiselle said the WSHG’s myMedicationAdvisor® (MMA) program was launched in 2005 and said safety was the first concern. She explained about Abacus’s oversight to improve medication safety, including a clinical pharmacist quarterly review of all medications, exclusion of medications where there is potential for abuse, confusion or over/under dosing, and review of any changes in source countries to ensure the medications are appropriate for importation. Ms. Loiselle also spoke about the MMA website and its “ask-a-pharmacist” and active clinical pharmacist outreach to members and providers. She said some specialty medications have already been added to the approved list of drugs.

Amanda Adams, pharmacist, said a more proactive approach is necessary when dealing with specialty medications. She said outreach to members is important to be sure they know how to take the medication, store it, side effects, etc.

Mr. Follick explained that when the structure was first set up, WSHG contracted with Prescription Benefits Services (PBS). He said if the program is changed to buy direct from CanaRx, it will create a different line of exposure, risk and liability. Mr. Follick said that is why when the owner of PBS passed away, Abacus was compelled to pick up the PBS piece. Mr. Follick said by adding PBS to the structure, it eliminates risk.

Joe Wroblewski spoke about the security component, which included being HIPAA compliant, having cybersecurity insurance coverage and being a Microsoft Certified Partner. He said in order to maximize savings, Abacus completes a drug-by-drug comparison between the health plan PBMs and CanaRx, blind pricing comparisons and also transparency of pricing with the MMA fees specified. Mr. Wroblewski said Abacus has expertise in member engagement with strategies based on algorithms and can target members. He said there is a full package outreach to members.

Mike Follick said 4% of members will use a specialty medication and the data is necessary to figure out who is or who will use them.

In response to a question, Mr. Follick said of the 480 medications on the CanaRx list, 240 are irrelevant since there are no WSHG members taking those drugs. He said Abacus mines the data and provides clinical improvements and also noted that WSHG receives a multi-program discount.

Dan Morgado asked if the Diabetes Program fees will increase if the Board votes to move away from the MMA program.

Mike Follick said in theory, WSHG is currently saving \$27K a year by bundling the services, but said Abacus has not decided to do that yet.

Marc Waldman said if the group goes to high deductible health plans, it will be interesting to see how the value proposition will change with those plans.

Carol Cormier said until the deductible is satisfied, only the preventative medications will be eligible through the MMA/CanaRx program.

Jim Kern said in addition to Marc Waldman and Dan Morgado hearing the CanaRx presentation, he said he would like the Steering Committee to hear it as well.

There was a discussion.

Motion

Marc Waldman made a motion to withdraw the March 28<sup>th</sup> motion to make a recommendation to the Board.

Jim Kern seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Other business:**

A Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for June 1, 2017 at 1:00 PM to hear a presentation from CanaRx. The meeting was scheduled to take place at the Natick Community Senior Center.

Marc Waldman made a motion to adjourn. John Senchyshyn seconded the motion.

Motion

Chair Dan Morgado adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM.

*Prepared by  
Karen Carpenter  
Group Benefits Strategies*