

**West Suburban Health Group
Steering Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 12:30 PM
Natick Community Senior Center, Natick, MA

Meeting Minutes

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Jim Kern, Chair	Town of Dedham
Marc Waldman, Board Chair	Town of Wellesley
Jerry Lane	Town of Dover
Christopher Coleman	Town of Needham
John Senchyshyn	Town of Wayland

Guests in Attendance:

Jack Dolan, Attorney	Town of Dedham
John Townsend	Town of Natick
William Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Fred Winer	Tufts Health Plan
Julia LeBrun	Fallon Health
Bob Cannon	Fallon Health
Michael Breen	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA
Carol Cormier	Group Benefits Strategies
Chris Nunnally	Group Benefits Strategies
Karen Carpenter	Group Benefits Strategies

Steering Committee Chair Jim Kern called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Approval of the minutes of the September 15, 2017 meeting:

Marc Waldman moved to approve the September 15, 2017 minutes as written.

Motion

Jerry Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Vote on recommendation of the CY18 Senior Plan rates to the Board:

Carol Cormier said she reviewed the BCBS Medex 2 and Harvard Pilgrim Medicare Enhance rate projections at the September 15th Steering Committee. She said the medical claims for these two plans are self-funded and referred to the WSHG CY18 Senior Plan Rating exhibit. Ms. Cormier said she is recommending level funding the Medex 2 plan at \$379 for CY18. She noted BCBS made changes to the drug formulary in an effort to address the rising cost of the prescription drugs and PDP premium.

Harvard Pilgrim Medicare Enhance – Carol Cormier reviewed the Medicare Enhance projections for CY18 and said the GBS projection is \$366.14, an increase of 7.1%. She said the HPHC recommended CY18 rate is \$369.52, an increase of 8.0%. Ms. Cormier said she is recommending setting the rate at \$370 based on the FY18 funding shortfall of this plan.

Ms. Cormier reviewed the CY18 rates for the fully insured senior plans. She noted that Tufts Health Plan reduced the original increase of 10% down to a 6% to 7% increase.

Ms. Cormier reviewed the following CY18 fully insured rates:

- Managed Blue for Seniors - \$351.00
- Fallon Senior Plan - \$394.00
- Tufts Medicare Preferred Supplement with PDP Plus - \$385.00
- Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO - \$314.00

John Senchyshyn made a motion to recommend the senior plan rates for CY18 to the Board as presented.

Motion

Jerry Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Steering Committee agreed to change the order of the Agenda and discuss Other Business prior to the possible Executive Session.

Other Business:

There was a discussion about possibly moving the current WSHG Benchmark plans closer to the design of the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) Benchmark plan.

In response to a question asked by Jim Kern, Atty. Jack Dolan said Sections 21 to 23 of Chapter 32B could be utilized to make plan design changes to the current WSHG Benchmark plan up to the level of the GIC Benchmark Plan. He said if the sections are followed and agreed to, the changes will be implemented.

Carol Cormier suggested changing the plan design every 2 to 3 years once all of the WSHG members are enrolled into the Benchmark plans.

Marc Waldman said Ch 32B, Sections 21 to 23 are silent on moving to a limited network plan and said the most heavily subscribed GIC plan is now the Uni-care plan. He said if the GIC decreases the number of carriers it currently offers, it would affect which plan would be considered the GIC Benchmark pPan.

Possible Executive Session pursuant to General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3.) in order to discuss strategy with respects to litigation as 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 Purchase Agreement. Update on Town of Sherborn:

Marc Waldman made the above motion that the Steering Committee go into executive session. I further move that the Steering Committee return into Open Session.

Motion

John Senchyshyn seconded the motion.

There was a roll call vote on the motion to go into Executive Session as follows:

Jim Kern, Town of Dedham - Yes,
Marc Waldman, Town of Wellesley - Yes

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John Senchyshyn, Town of Wayland - Yes,
Jerry Lane, Town of Dover - Yes,
Christopher Coleman, Town of Needham - Yes.

At 12:55 PM, Jim Kern, 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 Purchase Agreement. Further, the Steering Committee will return to Open Session. He asked the health plan representatives to leave the meeting.

Chair Jim Kern adjourned the Open Session meeting at 12:55 PM to go into Executive Session.

Chair Jim Kern called the Open Session meeting back to order at 1:00 PM.

John Senchyshyn made a motion to recommend to the Board to approve the settlement with Town of Sherborn as written, without precedent for any pending or future matter involving WSHG and the remaining units.

Motion

Christopher Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Marc Waldman made a motion to adjourn.

Motion

Jerry Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chair Jim Kern adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.

*Prepared by
Karen Carpenter,
Group Benefits Strategies*