

**West Suburban Health Group  
Steering Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, October 9, 2019  
Wellesley Town Hall, Wellesley, MA

**Meeting Minutes**

**Steering Committee Members in Attendance:**

Marc Waldman, Board Chair	Town of Wellesley
Jerry Lane	Town of Dover
Bill Chenard	Town of Natick
Kevin Mizikar	Town of Shrewsbury
Karen Jelloe	Town of Wrentham
Chuck Murphy-Romboletti	Town of Needham
Louise Miller	Town of Wayland

**Guests in Attendance:**

Ruth Hohenschau	WSHG Treasurer
Anne Costello	WSHG Asst. Treasurer
Donna Lemoyne	Town of Wayland
Mary Bousquet	Town of Holliston
Kristin Stearley	Town of Holliston
Scott Szczebak	Town of Wellesley
Sybil Moore	Town of Needham
David Snowdon	Town of Shrewsbury
Bill Hickey	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Julia LeBrun	Fallon Health (FH)
Katelyn Glennon	Fallon Health (FH)
Patrick Flatterly	Fallon Health (FH)
Mike Breen	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)
Mary Bartkiewicz	Tufts Health Plan (THP)
Lisa Despres	Tufts Health Plan (THP)
Carol Cormier	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.
Karen Carpenter	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.

Marc Waldman, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

**Approval of the Minutes of February 20 and February 26 meetings:**

Bill Chenard made a motion to approve the February 20 and February 26 Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion

Kevin Mizikar seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Treasurers report:**

Treasurer, Ruth Hohenschau, distributed and reviewed the financial reports through fiscal year-end June 30, 2019 and the September 2019 report (unaudited figures). She said the Trust Fund balance decreased by \$1.095M at the end of June 2019. She noted that the auditor is working on the FY19 reports and there may be changes made to her reports due to adjustments of reinsurance and claims accruals.

Ms. Hohenschau said the Trust Fund balance increased at the end of September by \$2.02M. She said the fund balance at the end of September was \$7,046,316.

Jerry Lane joined the meeting.

**Appointment of the Steering Committee Chair:**

Marc Waldman asked for interest or nominations for the Steering Committee Chair vacancy.

Bill Chenard made a motion to nominate Kevin Mizikar as the Steering Committee Chair.

Chuck Murphy-Romboletti seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

Motion
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The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Senior Plan Rates for CY20:**

Carol Cormier referred to the proposed CY20 Senior Plan Rate Sheet, which included both self-funded and fully insured health plans. Ms. Cormier said WSHG offers two plans that self-fund medical and insure pharmacy, the BCBS Medex plan and the HPHC Medicare Enhance plan. She said WSHG also offers four fully insured senior plans and said there are changes to the Fallon Senior Plan for CY20. Ms. Cormier asked the health plan representatives to speak to the fully-insured plan rate proposals.

Tufts Health Plan - Mary Bartkiewicz said the rate for the Tufts Supplement Plan with PDP Plus is not increasing for CY20. She said the Tufts Medicare HMO Advantage plan rate is increasing from \$317 to \$327. Ms. Bartkiewicz said the increase is due to the ACA Insurer fee. She said there are no benefit changes for CY20.

Blue Cross Blue Shield – Mike Breen said the Managed Blue for Seniors plan is increasing from \$365 to \$375.74 with no benefit changes. He said slight changes were made to the drug formulary.

Fallon Health - Patrick Flattery said Fallon Health has re-branded its senior plans for CY20. He said the WSHG Senior Plan has been replaced with the Fallon Medicare Plus Premier plan and he noted that the benefits have not changed. In addition, Mr. Flattery said Fallon Health added a limited network senior plan named Fallon Medicare Plus Central Premier as an option. He said both plans have the same benefits, but the Fallon Central limited network plan is available only to Worcester County residents. Mr. Flattery said the Medicare Plus Premier plan rate proposed is a decrease of -25.3% and the Central plan premium is a -42.9% decrease from the CY19 Fallon Senior Plan. He said both plans now offer a Benefit Bank that provides \$250 for the member to use towards fitness memberships, vision and dental services. On the Central Medicare Plus plan the Benefit Bank provides \$500.

Mr. Flattery said the Reliant Medical Group is back in the Fallon Medicare plan provider network.

In response to a question asked about the reduction of rates, Mr. Flattery said the reduction was due to the consolidation of Fallon's large and small groups and the new plan design. He said Fallon would be open to a multi-year rate guarantee of up to 5%, and said he would ask Fallon for the actual proposal.

Marc Waldman made a motion to approve the fully insured senior plan rates for CY20 as presented.

Motion

Karen Jelloe seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Self-Funded Senior Plan Projections -

Medex 2 with PDP - Carol Cormier reviewed the claims history and average cost per member for the past two years. She said after adding in the trend factor and administrative fees, the GBS calculated funding rate is \$404.38, a 3.2% increase. Ms. Cormier said BCBS is proposing a rate of \$404.87. She said GBS is recommending a CY20 Medex rate of \$405, a 3.3% increase.

HPHC Medicare Enhance – Ms. Cormier said the claims history for this plan indicate a 16.3% increase in claims from the previous year. She reviewed the projections and said the GBS proposed funding rate is \$381.30, a 2.7% increase. Ms. Cormier said HPHC is proposing a funding rate of \$379.93. She said GBS is recommending a CY20 Medicare Enhance rate of \$382, a 3.2% increase.

Louise Miller joined the meeting.

There was a discussion about the carriers adding the HIT tax to the senior health plans.

Ruth Hohenschau asked Carol Cormier to send her the enrollment numbers for the Tufts health plans.

Marc Waldman made a motion to recommend the CY20 proposed senior health plan rates to the Board.

Motion

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

**Ethics Commission determination:**

Carol Cormier briefly explained the Ethics Commission (EC) position concerning those who are appointed to serve on Joint Purchase Group (JPG) Boards while they are receiving health benefits through the JPG. She said a situation arose in another JPG which prompted them to obtain a legal opinion as to whether or not this would be considered a conflict of interest. Ms. Cormier said this is the situation for most JPG Board members, i.e. they are getting benefits through the JPG. The EC considers these individuals to have a *conflict of interest*. She referred to opinion letter in the meeting packet written by Atty. Leo Peloquin who is legal counsel for the other JPG. Ms. Cormier said individuals who have this conflict of interest can address it by taking these steps: filling out a Disclosure Form, having the appointing authority sign it, and filing it with the Town Clerk (or the equivalent for a school or other district).

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In addition to legal counsel's letter, she referred to two sets of the Disclosure Forms. She said one is partially filled out by legal counsel and suggested using that form. Ms. Cormier said the other is a blank form. She said this is only required if the WSHG Board member receives his/her benefits through the WSHG and noted it applies to the Primary Board Representative and the Alternate Board Representative.

Marc Waldman said the Steering Committee recommends completing the process prior to the next meeting at which Board representatives would be taking a vote. Ms. Cormier said this is an internal process and one that GBS will not be managing.

**Other Business:**

There was no further business

Marc Waldman made a motion to adjourn.

Jerry Lane seconded the motion.

Marc Waldman adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

*Prepared by  
Karen Carpenter,  
Gallagher Benefit Services*