

**West Suburban Health Group  
Steering Committee Meeting**

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 9:00 AM  
Natick Community & Senior Center  
Natick,, MA

**Meeting Minutes**

**Steering Committee Members in Attendance:**

Kevin Mizikar, Steering Committee Chair	Town of Shrewsbury
Marc Waldman, Board Chair	Town of Wellesley
Jerry Lane	Town of Dover
William Chenard	Town of Natick
Chuck Murphy-Romboletti	Town of Needham
Louise Miller	Town of Wayland

**Guests in Attendance:**

Scott Szczebak	Town of Wellesley
David Snowdon	Town of Shrewsbury
Donna Lemoyne	Town of Wayland
Mark Nicholson	Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC)
Patrick Flattery	Fallon Health (FH)
Michael Breen	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA (BCBSMA)
Lisa Despres	Tufts Health Plan (THP)
Carol Cormier	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.
Karen Carpenter	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.
Karen Quinlivan	Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.

Kevin Mizikar, Steering Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

**Second review of FY21 rate projections for active employee plans and vote on recommendations:**

Kevin Mizikar said that Carol Cormier had revised the FY21 funding scenarios presented at the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting as requested. He said the revisions included adding in projected claims costs for the Diabetes Rewards Program and the CanaRx program. He said that there were also two new scenarios as requested by the Committee.

The Steering Committee agreed it would not recommend going below \$110 million in funding for FY21.

Carol Cormier said that Harvard Pilgrim revised its rate projections based on its new higher trend factor. She said, as expected, the rates were higher than originally projected but still a reduction from current and still, in her opinion, not sufficient given historical and recent claims. She said that she would not recommend rate decreases.

Marc Waldman said he is comfortable with new Scenario F which indicates a 5.2% composite funding increase with total expected annualized funding of \$112,275,145 based on December 19 enrollments

Kevin Mizikar said he also favors Scenario F. He said he thinks it is a bit conservative but that it is a good time to build on the fund balance since the proposed rate increases are relatively moderate overall. In Scenario F the proposed rate increases are as follows: Harvard Pilgrim Benchmark and HSAQ EPO/HMO at 6.3%, BCBS EPO/HMO and HSAQ at 3.8%, Tufts Benchmark and HSAQ EPO at 4.8%, Fallon Benchmarks and HSAQs at 4.8%, and Harvard Pilgrim PPO at 1.8%.

Bill Chenard moved to recommend FY21 Funding Scenario F to the Board with the rates rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Motion

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

**Update on proposal from OptiMed Health Partners:**

Carol Cormier said she, Mark VonVogt and Chris Nunnally had a conference call with the people from OptiMed. She said they are prepared to move forward with the reactive approach for supplying infusion medications for the one member as discussed at the last Steering Committee meeting. She said as soon as WSHG signs the proposed agreement, OptiMed will contact the physician for a new prescription. She said OptiMed will work with the prescribing physician. Ms. Cormier noted that OptiMed will bill the WSHG monthly using the Warrant process. She said that OptiMed will report on the savings.

Jerry Lane moved to adopt the proposed Agreement with OptiMed and to move forward on a case-by-case basis with the Steering Committee to approve additional cases upon review of de-identified data.

Motion

Chuck Murphy-Romboletti seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Marc Waldman signed the Agreement between OptiMed and WSHG.

**BCBSMA and Tufts optional plan coverages:**

BCBSMA proposed plan design changes for FY21 - Mike Breen explained that BCBSMA would be adding an acupuncture benefit but that since WSHG has a self-funded plan with BCBS, it can opt out of the benefit if it so wishes. He said the benefit is limited to 12 acupuncture visits per year and each visit takes the specialist co-pay. He said that the added cost to WSHG is expected to be about ten cents per member per month. He said another change BCBSMA will make is to cover Narcan without its being subject to the deductible.

Mr. Breen said another new feature that BCBS will add is the Smart90 Rx program in which a BCBS member can get a 90-day supply of his/her maintenance medications at a retail CVS pharmacy but pay the mail order copay. He said this feature has been added to the WSHG BCBS plans. Another program Mr. Breen mentioned is elimination of the annual copay maximums on High Tech Radiology. He said WSHG currently has an annual maximum copay of \$375. He said WSHG may opt to keep the maximum copay.

Tufts optional plan design changes for FY21 – Lisa Despres said that Tufts also will be adding an acupuncture visit benefit but that it will not have any annual visit limits. She said it will be subject to a specialist visit copay. She said that Tufts expects the benefit to increase claims costs by 0.06% per member per month. She said that Enteral formulas will be removed from the DME benefit category and thereby will not have any member cost share.

Harvard Pilgrim (HPHC) - Bill Hickey said that the WSHG is free to add acupuncture as a benefit for HPHC plans under a plan Rider. He said HPHC pays for this service differently than BCBSMA and Tufts in that it uses a third party to administer the program. He said that the added cost is a 13 cent fee per member per month in addition to increase in claims costs which is expected to be ten cents per member per month.

It was noted that with all three health plans the acupuncture benefit uses a network of providers.

Fallon Health – Patrick Flattery said that Fallon currently gives discounts for acupuncture.

Marc Waldman moved to recommend adding acupuncture to BCBSMA (12 visit annual limit), Tufts (no annual visit limit), and Harvard Pilgrim (12 visit annual limit) plans with coverage as described by the health plan account executives.

Motion

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

Marc Waldman motioned to recommend maintaining the BCBS \$375 annual copay maximum on high tech imaging and removing copays from the Tufts enteral formula benefit for infants.

Motion

Louise Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Other business:**

There was no other business.

Motion

Marc Waldman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Bill Chenard seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Kevin Mizikar adjourned the meeting at 9:47 AM and said the Board meeting will begin at 10 AM.

*Prepared by Carol Cormier  
Gallagher Benefit Services*