

School Employees' Health Benefits Commission
Open Session Minutes
November 21, 2022

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided through the annual notice of the schedule of regular meetings of the Commission filed with and prominently posted in the offices of the Secretary of State. The 2022 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 10, 2021, and Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 15, 2021. Updates regarding the telephonic meeting were sent to the Secretary of State, the Star Ledger and the Trenton Times, and posted to the division's website on November 4, 2022.

The meeting of the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Monday, November 21, 2022 at 10:00 am. Due to health and safety concerns for the public regarding COVID-19, the meeting of November 21, 2022, was not held in-person and instead be conducted via teleconference.

The text of Resolution A (Closed Session) and Resolution B (Executive Session) were read in their entirety in the event that the Commission desires, at any point in the meeting, to approve a motion to go into Closed or Executive session.

Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Commission Members:

Michael Maillaro, Chair
Danielle Schimmel
Gail Simon
Julie Giordano Plotkin
Denise Graff Policastro
Sarah Favinger
Carl Tanksley
Nicole Ludwig, Secretary

Also Present:

Theresa Williams, State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits
Alison Keating, Deputy Attorney General
Joyce Malerba, State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits
Christine Shaw, Truveris Account Executive
Debra Pelto, State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits
Joe Thomas, Truveris Clinical Director State Accounts
Lindsey Sussman, Truveris
Stacy Husky, Applicant
Wendy Perez, Applicant
Linda Westover, Applicant
Alicia Santiago, Applicant

Absent:

Sonia Rivera-Perez

Interim Chair

Denise Graff Policastro nominated Mike Maillaro to Interim Chair. Julie Giordano Plotkin seconded. The commission voted in favor of the motion, and Mike Maillaro was named Interim Chair for the meeting.

Secretary Nicole Ludwig motioned for the 2023 commission dates. Chairperson Maillaro made a motion to accept these dates. Commissioner Tanksley seconded. All voted in favor.

Secretary Nicole Ludwig made a motion to go into Closed Session to hear the Closed Session appeals that contain protected health information. Chairperson Maillaro seconded. All voted in favor.

The following cases, due to HIPAA regulations, were heard in Closed Session:

Case #2022112101: The member stated they have a stepson with autism in which they are the subscriber for. The member is an active employee for Wayne Department of Education. When the member's stepson turned 26, proper documentation was provided so the member could continue as the subscriber. The member originally had Horizon, which then changed to Aetna, the stepson was still approved for coverage. Aetna then changed to Horizon state and is now denying the stepsons' coverage. The stepsons' mother cannot provide coverage for her son as she is a realtor in Alabama with no health insurance. Documentation has been submitted to Secretary Nicole Ludwig referring to this. The stepson lives with their mother in Alabama but has always been covered in New Jersey. The member stated the reason for this case is to make sure the stepson can continue to have coverage. The documentation states the stepson has been denied because they do not reside in New Jersey with the subscriber.

At this time Commissioner Simon made a motion to move to Executive Session. Chairperson Maillaro seconded. All voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session Chairperson Maillaro made a motion to deny the appeal based on 179-3.1; stepchildren must reside with the subscriber to qualify for coverage. Commissioner Simon seconded; the motion was denied in a vote of 4 to 3.

Case #2022112102: This appeal is for an overage handicapped coverage for the child of the member. The member must submit a renewal application every year. Letters had been sent to the member advising them that they must file for the application for continuation. Horizon/the Division did not receive the application, therefore another letter had been sent advising the member that the coverage will be terminated. The member sent a letter of appeal which had been denied because the timeframe was missed for the application. Documentation was provided to support that renewal applications were completed by the doctor and sent certified mail in December 2021. The applications still have not been received.

Commissioner Policastro made a motion to have the ability to resubmit the renewal application of coverage for the member's son to Horizon, in order for the coverage to continue. Commissioner Tanksley seconded; all voted in favor. The motion was passed and the member's appeal was approved.

Case #2022112103: The appeal was regarding Overage Handicap application for the member's two children. Both children were terminated due to renewal applications not being received by the deadline. The member stated both children were sick and she was unable to complete the renewal applications on time. The applications had been submitted in February 2022 but denied by Horizon being that they were received outside of the timeframe.

Commissioner Policastro made a motion to allow the member to resubmit the paperwork for both children. Commissioner Favinger seconded the motion. The motion was passed in a vote of 6-1.

Case #2022112104: The member had been recommended for an x-ray through worker's compensation.

Commissioner Giordano Plotkin made a motion to accept the lawyer's recommendation. Chairperson Maillaro seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Chairperson Maillaro made a motion to move to Open Session. Commissioner Giordano Plotkin seconded. All voted in favor. The Commission moved to Open Session.

Truveris Trend Report:

Christine Shaw touched based on a strategic pillar focused on the procurement process that include their reverse option and market share tech capabilities. Truveris' marketplace creates a competitive environment for price transparency and competition. The second pillar focuses on the insights gained once the contract's in place as a direct result of the claims experience. Truveris takes in 100% of claims from PBM/Optum. They also flag drugs that are not classified correctly or receiving the correct discount and report it to Optum, and identify new high cost drug spend potential opportunities to leverage utilization management strategies and support the reconciliation process including rebates. Truveris supports the State with market checks and reverse auction technology. Joe Thomas touched based on high cost drugs.

Chairperson Maillaro made a motion to move to Executive session. Commissioner Policastro seconded, all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive session, Chairperson Maillaro made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Policastro seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Fields
Acting Secretary
State Health Benefits Commission