

# **NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting**

Minutes: Number 106, December 16, 2019

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## **A. Opening of Meeting 03:04 PM**

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Vice Chair Donna Walters, Trustees, Elizabeth Freas, Candace Reimer, John Pope, Deborah Piatek, Kate Huber, Michelle Okal-Frink, Michael Capuana, Bob Giannicchi. Also attending: Laura Napoli from Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat, Manager of Finance & Enrollment Alice Riley, Darcie Falsioni, Esq. Representatives from Oswald Companies, Steve Baltas, Janet Lukacs, John Kertis, and Medhat Kaldas appeared via video conference.

### **1. Public Comments and Questions**

There were no public comments or questions.

## **B. Presentations/ Informational Items**

### **1. Audit Report**

Laura Napoli of Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat discussed the independent auditor's report advising that overall it was positive with assets up, Rx rebates up, liabilities down, expenses for Program Services and Management and General down, claims administration down.

### **2. Fiscal Update**

Finance and Enrollment Manager, Alice Riley, presented the summary balance sheet and provided an update on revenues and expenses. These documents are available on the NY44 Health Trust website. Alice reported that the financials are in better shape than in the past. Rx rebates were \$3.68 million. There was not much change in the financial activity from 7/19 – 10/19. The Superintendent's report has been submitted. NOVA performance is very good and external audits will be conducted annually.

## **C. Consultant Report**

### **1. Subcommittee Updates**

#### **a. Financial Committee**

Medhat Kaldas reported that the per employee/per month cost for the most recent quarter is 8.3% higher than the annual average but is 6.7% lower than last year. Enrollment decreased 16% from November 2018 to October 2019. Rebates are received quarterly.

#### **b. Communications Committee**

John Kertis reported that the website has been redesigned to make it more user friendly. On December 6, an e-mail went out encouraging members to look at the site and give feedback for any improvements/additions at the annual meeting. Cost savings and other topics will be included for enrollees. Alice Riley will send out a news brief after Board Meetings to all districts. A page will be designed for Benefit Administrators regarding billing to be used as an information source. A WellNow promotional co-branded mailing (refrigerator magnet) will be mailed out shortly and WellNow will split the cost of same with the Trust.

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c. Population Health Committee

Pamela Krutkiewicz reported that there was only 30% participation by enrollees in the past wellness initiatives. The focus going forward will be on employees' intrinsic drive to develop knowledge regarding the importance of preventive care and building a relationship with their PCP. An employee interest survey was suggested as was a health management communication calendar outlining specific topics (such as American Heart month) and the use of short videos and links on the website.

d. Innovation Committee

Janet Lukacs reported that the committee will conduct due diligence of current pharmacy benefits manager and audit all contract pricing as well as look into solutions to decrease the cost of specialty drugs.

e. Benefits Committee

Steve Baltas reported that the committee is looking at dental, ER and urgent care. The committee is focused on promoting dental preventative care exams and creating incentives to plan design for doing so. This will help reduce larger expensive procedures in the future. It was noted that TeleMed is underutilized and can be cumbersome to register in time of need. Districts would be well served to promote members to register while healthy, making usage more convenient in time of need. An urgent care center map by region was suggested to be posted to the website for enrollee use in locating their nearest facility.

**2. NY 44 New Website Announcement**

John Kertis gave an update on the new website as noted above in the communication committee report.

**3. 2020 Committee Meeting Calendar**

Janet Lukacs presented a proposed communications calendar outlining monthly calls which districts can participate in starting with Finance in January, Benefits in February, Communications in March and Innovation in April. There would be no calls during May and June due to open enrollment.

**D. General Trust Business**

**1. Status of Districts**

No new districts have left since last meeting and there are no new changes.

**2. Approval by unanimous written consent in lieu of meeting of the following:**

a. **Approval of Audited Financial Statements (11/18/19)**

b. **Approval of new Trust Liaison Designations (11/18/19)**

c. **Approval of Employment Agreement for Lora Schasel as Trust Office Coordinator (10/30/19)**

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### **3. Appointment of Lora Schasel as Secretary of the Board of Trustees**

- a. As a result of Lora Schasel moving from part-time to full-time employment status with the Trust, the Trustees now wish to appoint her as Secretary of the Trust.

### **E. Approval of Minutes**

#### **1. Meeting Number 105, October 10, 2019**

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting 105, held October 10, 2019, was made by John Pope, seconded by Michelle Okal-Frink, and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (106-1)**

### **F. Old Business**

None

### **G. New Business**

#### **1. Resolution to Approve Lora Schasel as Secretary to the Board of Trustees**

The motion to approve Lora Schasel as Secretary to the Board of Trustees was made by Kate Huber, seconded by Bob Giannicchi, and unanimously approved **CARRIED (106-2)**

### **H. Adjournment**

#### **1. Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on Monday, March 9, 2020, at 3 PM**

The motion to adjourn at 4:05 PM was made by John Pope, seconded by Elizabeth Freas, and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (106-3)**

Trustees entered Executive Session at 4:05 PM. Executive Session adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora L. Schasel  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees