

## From the Latest Board of Trustees Meeting

### Welcome to the NY44 News Brief for June 2020:

#### Fiscal Update

Finance and Enrollment Manager, Alice Riley, presented the summary balance sheet and provided an update on revenues and expenses during the May 4th Board meeting. These documents are available on the NY44 Health Trust website.

Alice reported that the Incurred But Not Yet Reported "IBNR" stays static at \$11,050,634 throughout the fiscal year until the actuaries complete the next Reserve Report. Alice indicated that even though there was a 13% reduction in enrollment since July 2019, the Trust received higher than anticipated Rx rebates because PBD was able to negotiate better discounts and rebates with their vendors. The Trust received almost \$1.8M in April in Rx rebates for the 3rd quarter of 2019. Other enrollment fluctuations occur throughout the year due to life events such as marriage, death, birth, etc.

The full book of business for May closed the month at a positive \$3,513,737 and the YTD closed at a positive \$22,021,515. The unrestricted funds (reserves for claims) is near the threshold of the Trust's goal. As a Article 44 of NYS Insurance the Trust is not required to carry an unrestricted amount of funds for claims, however, being fiscally responsible the Trust's goal is to have a reserve fund available for claims. In fiscal year 2018-19 the Trust closed the year with a \$7.9 million in equity, including the estimated \$10 million in 2019-20 almost fully funds the "reserve". The reports show a \$22M equity and after deducting the IBNR, the Trust is exactly where it was anticipated to be and in good standing. The Trust is at the fifth year of the Financial Plan and the updated plan can be located on the Trust website.

Alice advised that the Financial Activity of Accounts indicates that due to the pandemic, there was a small decrease in claims but otherwise claims were relatively consistent. The Morgan Stanley investments had a small gain. The biggest months of movement are January and August when CDs and bonds come due.

There have been no Wellness check reissues, so those figures have not changed.

The Auditors, Bahgat & Laurito Bahgat, will be doing all field work remotely this year.

Open enrollment was passive this year, which meant enrollees and the benefit administrators only needed to concentrate on Open Enrollment changes, without collecting new applications from everyone. The Open Enrollment window closed on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dental claims are significantly reduced due to the COVID-19. A slight increase in claims began in mid-June. Visits during January thru May for WellNow average 50 visits a month. WellNow is currently only available in New York State.

#### **Stop-Loss Eligibility Changes DEADLINE for Information is July 1, 2020 \*\* please send to us ASAP**

Stop Loss Eligibility Changes – the Trust will reach out to all districts to request current eligibility criteria, copies of district eligibility policies, documentation regarding eligibility changes due to COVID-19 and notification of future eligibility changes.

## Subcommittee Reports

### Benefits Subcommittee

The Benefits Subcommittee has continued the due diligence regarding Dental network expansion and incentive designs. We are waiting on information from our current provider (PBD) to further our analysis. This information was committed to be delivered to us by July 15th and we will need 60 days past that day to report progress.

We are committed to continuing telemedicine in our program and are working through contracts with our current provider (Well Now) to continue coverage without disruption.

The monthly benefits sub-committee meeting was held June 17, 2020. The focus of this meeting centered around general updates and planning for June 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. **The next meeting will be held July 15th.**

### Communications Subcommittee

#### Communication Flow Chart

We are in the process of creating an organized flow chart of how information flows and is circulated from Oswald to Union Presidents, Districts, and Human Resources. This newly created flow chart will help the correct information be disseminated through the proper channels.

#### Upcoming Communication Campaign

We are currently researching the best, most relevant topics to communicate to Plan members and the most efficient communication channel (print, mobile, digital) with today's current state. The next communication campaign is planning to be released in the Fall of this year.

### Financial Subcommittee

#### Utilization performance through May 2020.

Over the past 12 months, from June 1, 2019 through May 30, 2020, the average cost Per Employee Per Month (PEPM) totaled \$1,404. This total derives from all Medical and Rx expenses, including claims, Stop-loss, TPA charges and all carrier rebates. Those expenses are divided by the number of employees on the plan. Measure these expenses by membership eliminates fluctuations in enrollment throughout the year.

Comparing this total to the fiscal year, the plan is running lower by 0.8% in the fiscal year, which starts on July 1, 2019. The fiscal total PEPM is \$1,392.



May's experience was slightly below average in comparison to an average month. This was due to lagged effect of utilization from Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Efforts to encourage providers (and patients) to delay discretionary visits or elective procedures, we are also measuring and expecting short-term reduction in Non COVID-

19 claims. We are viewing this a delay in treatment and expect the utilization to catch up after July, assuming there is not a second wave.

## Innovation Subcommittee

The prescription drug Request for Proposal (RFP) was released to the market on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The RFP was sent to six (6) pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) organizations as well as to the current administrator, Pharmacy Benefit Dimensions. The RFP process will contain two rounds of responses. The first round will analyze the quotes for all carriers and determine those who will be included in round two. This allows those PBM's to provide their best and final offers. The Innovations subcommittee will meet after each round to discuss the results. After round two, the subcommittee will make recommendation for the finalists. The information will be released at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting.

The next project the subcommittee will focus on is continuing to explore solutions for specialty drugs. As previously communicated, these drugs represent well over 30% of the total drug spend for the NY44 Health Benefit Trust Plan.

## Population Health Subcommittee

We continue to focus on the importance of behavioral health, physical activity, and nutrition. Our June newsletter (right) went out to the districts on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Oswald has also released an enhanced Resource Center available to all districts which contains pre-packaged wellness challenges, worksite health toolkits and a wellness e-library. As a reminder, the NY44 Population Health Subcommittee monthly meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> is an open meeting available to the districts via WebEx at 1 pm. We are planning on showcasing our newly enhanced resource center, sharing what we have accomplished this year, where we are going, listen to your feedback and answer any questions you may have.

## Other Sharing


- Next NY44 Trustee Board Meeting will be held on August 20, 2020
- The WellNow Mobile App: On the payment screen it prompts you to pay with credit or debit and asks if you have a coupon code to use. That is where you would enter the code of "ny44vcare" The code is for enrollees and dependents of the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust within New York State only.
- Has your school signed up for the Stewardship meetings yet? We would like your feedback and have a honest conversation about your needs and expectations of the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust.  
*Thank you to Everyone for all you do. Wishing Good Health to All.*

Best Regards,

Alice B. Riley, Manager of Finance and Enrollment  
 NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust  
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Thoughts, comments, feedback? We can be reached at [NY44@OswaldCompanies.com](mailto:NY44@OswaldCompanies.com)

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Healthy organizations need healthy employees to thrive, and a healthy employee is about more than just getting the right health care. This is why the NY44 Health Benefits Plans Trust is passionate about helping our members thrive, and we want to give you access to tools to support your wellness goals with our monthly wellness newsletter!

**Coping with COVID-19**

Facing a pandemic, such as COVID-19 can be stressful and scary. How can you remain calm? Learn more on how to cope below.

[COPING WITH COVID-19](#)

**SMART Health Newsletter**

Read the June issue of our newsletter featuring articles on COVID-19, fitness tips, video workouts, mental health, nutrition tips and more.

[READ THE JUNE NEWSLETTER](#)

**Need a weekly reset?**

Discover approaches to not only survive but thrive in the face of adversity. Whether you're looking for stress relief, healthy cooking recipes, short at-home exercise videos or other reality opportunities, you can find it below!

[LEARN MORE](#)

As we navigate these challenging times, The NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust (Trust) is fully prepared to respond to the evolving needs of our members with health and safety at the core of our protocols. Although the Trust staff is working remotely, we are still here to continue to serve your needs.