

# NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting

Minutes: Number 113, January 21, 2021

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## Opening of Meeting 3:02 PM

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Vice Chair Donna Walters, Trustees Elizabeth Freas, Candace Reimer, John Pope, Deborah Piatek, Michelle Okal-Frink, Christa McHale, and Bob Giannicchi. Also attending: Darcie Falsioni, Esq., Representatives from Oswald Companies, Steve Baltas, Janet Lukacs, John Kertis, Medhat Kaldas, and Cindi Morris.

Not in Attendance: Trustee Kate Huber

### 1. Public Comments and Questions None

## A. Presentations/ Informational Items

### 1. Fiscal Update

Trust Chair, Jim Fregelette, indicated that the Trust received Rx rebate revenue of \$2.1 million in November, and there is an 8 month lag in gathering information and negotiating rebates. The Trust has received \$403K in Retiree Drug Subsidies.

There was a slight decline in enrollment which was not due to districts leaving, but due to normal life events/attrition.

Regarding the Statement of Revenues and disbursements, the Trust continues to do well with net assets this year (to date) being better than last year.

The bank and investment accounts total \$56.5 million and is affected by the timing of when we receive payments.

The Statement of cash flow illustrates the contributions vs. expenses and shows that we are doing well with a net positive of \$7.5 Million. This has been an unusual year with pauses of elective procedures which has impacted the number of claims.

## B. Consultant Report

### 1. Subcommittee Updates

#### a. Financial Committee

Medhat Kaldas reported that we are 15.6% below our quarterly average. The Average PEPM for the fiscal year is \$1,518. The utilization cost for the fiscal year is showing a 5.3% trend rate.

There are 9 large claims with \$200K or more. Utilization patterns for the year indicate that March was a large claim month and August was mostly run off and COVID claims coming in. Enrollment has been steady the last 3 months.

## NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting

Minutes: Number 113, January 21, 2021

---

b. Communications Committee

John Kertis reported on the website analytics. There were 784 new users. The snapshot shows the enrollees/western region is the most accessed page which indicates that enrollees are using the website the most.

A preview was given of the upcoming February 2nd Open Forum meeting which will include information regarding the new dental carrier, Guardian. This information has also been posted on the website. In addition, the meeting will give a refresher on the communications flowchart which provides direction on how the Schools should get information out to the membership.

c. Population Health Committee

Cindi Morris reported that there has been a purpose statement created to help people better understand what the Population Health Committee's purpose is.

Cindi shared what's ahead in 2021 which includes defining population health, continuing to learn from Labor and Management representatives what's important and how to effectively communicate available resources, continuing to enhance population health opportunities within the schools and incorporating the monthly wellness newsletter into the Trust's monthly news brief.

Cindi gave a reminder that the following resources are available:

- Oswell for HR which has grab and go toolkits, fliers, etc.
- Spark UnPlug for employees which has workouts, recipes, etc. and can be found on the Trust website.

d. Innovation Committee

Janet Lukacs reported that information regarding the Prescription Drug RFP was taken to the Trustees in Executive Session after the last Board meeting. The Trustees requested additional information to be delivered this week, and there will be an announcement to the schools in February.

Janet advised that sometimes the Committees overlap, and the Innovations Committee worked closely with the Communications Committee regarding the dental transition and the many communications going out and on website materials. A Postcard went out to current dental enrollees regarding the dental transition in early January.

# NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting

Minutes: Number 113, January 21, 2021

---

e. **Benefits Committee**

Steve Baltas reported that the new dental plan includes a college tuition benefit as well as a rollover of a portion of the yearly maximum. The committee continues to review benefits regarding observation holds as members feel that certain codes could be confusing as to whether they are deemed “inpatient” or not. The committee is also reviewing family therapy benefits.

**C. General Trust Business**

**1. Status of Districts**

No changes to current district population.

**D. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Meeting Number 112, November 19, 2020**

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 112, November 19, 2020, was made by Michelle Okal-Frink, seconded by John Pope and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

**E. Old Business**

**1. Report of Board Approval in lieu of a meeting**

Approval via email of expansion of waiver of ER Co-Pay, effective January 1, 2021, for long-term Observation holds billed with CPT Codes 99224 to 99226 and Revenue Code 0762 (December 24, 2020 through December 29, 2020)

**F. New Business**

None

**G. Adjournment**

**1. Next Board of Trustees’ Meeting will be on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 3 PM**

The motion to adjourn at 3:31 PM was made by Liz Freas, seconded by John Pope and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora L. Schasel  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees