

## From the Latest Board of Trustees Meeting

Welcome to the NY44 News Brief for March 2021:

### IMPORTANT NEWS! Prescription Drug Administrator Change – effective July 1, 2021

In February 2021 we notified all participating schools of the exciting news regarding changes to prescription drug administration effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. As you may recall from the 2020 Board meetings, our consultant Oswald Companies worked in collaboration with the Innovation Subcommittee and conducted an extensive Request for Proposal (RFP) for the administration of the prescription drug plan. The current administrator, Pharmacy Benefits Dimensions (PBD), has been in place since the formation of the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust.

***As a result of this RFP process, the Trustees voted on and approved a change in prescription drug administration from Pharmacy Benefits Dimensions (PBD) to Capital Rx effective July 1, 2021.***

Some noteworthy points:

- ***Plan designs and prescription drugs will be the same.***
- Capital Rx pharmacy network is extensive, with over 67,000 participating retail pharmacies.
- Mail order prescriptions will be fulfilled through Walmart.
- Capital Rx will be able to transfer *most* existing/active mail order prescriptions from ProAct and Wegman's. Exceptions would include scripts for controlled substances, expired prescriptions, and those without any remaining refills.
- Enrolled members will receive a separate ID card for prescription drug.
- Participating pharmacies in the Eastern and Western regions will be notified by Capital Rx prior to the effective date. Capital Rx will share prior PBD group # information to be replaced with new Capital Rx information for the NY44 covered members.

What to expect in the months ahead:

- Formulary drug lists will have some differences. Impacted members will be notified in advance and prior to the effective date directly by Capital Rx.
- Additional participating school informational webinars to be scheduled.
- Member communications are under development including a postcard, video, and other informational documents.
- Members will receive welcome packets from Capital Rx no later than July 1, 2021.

Please continue to watch your email and be sure to check the NY44 website [www.ny44.e1b.org](http://www.ny44.e1b.org) for additional updates.

## Subcommittee Reports

### Benefits Subcommittee

Our last meeting was held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Committee discussed and are now in the process of reviewing chiropractic care for industry standards and member benefit comparisons.

We also continue to monitor emergency room utilization patterns and are pleased to report new district inquiries to join our dental plan.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Communications Subcommittee

Be on the lookout! Upcoming this Spring 2021:

- Additional communication materials and resources for the new Rx Plan Rollout to Capital Rx will be released this spring. This includes an information video, FAQs posted to the Trust website, and when to expect necessary member materials.
- The Open Enrollment Newsletter will be mailed to all members mid to late April that will include important dates, reminders, benefit information and more.

The latest Guardian Dental Updates:

- Have you checked out the Guardian informational presentation? Click [here](#) to watch and learn how to gain access to value added benefits such as:
  - College Tuition Benefit Rewards Program
  - Annual Maximum Rollover Benefit
  - byte at-home orthodontic treatment
  - And much more!

## Financial Subcommittee

### Utilization performance through February 2021

Most Recent	1 Month	3 Months	12 Months	8 Month(s)
	February 2021	December 2020 - February 2021	March 2020 - February 2021	July 2020 - February 2021
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
	Per Employee Per Month: <b>\$1,263</b> February, 2021	Average Per Employee Per Month: <b>\$1,445</b> December 2020 - February 2021	Average Per Employee Per Month: <b>\$1,483</b> March 2020 - February 2021	Average Per Employee Per Month: <b>\$1,491</b> July 2020 - February 2021

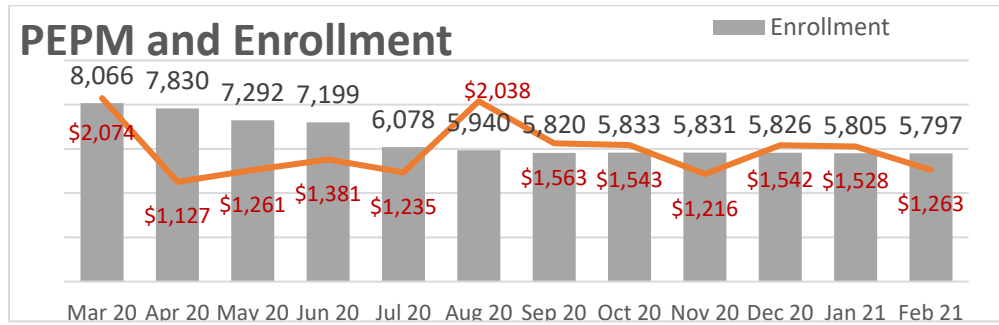
The 2020 fiscal year is averaging \$1,491 Per Enrolled Per Month (PEPM) due to a nice start in 2021.

The calculation of PEPM is Total Costs\* divided by employees enrolled. The claim liability for

exiting districts is the responsibility of the trust.

The month of February is 15.3% lower than the fiscal year average. This is solely due to the prescription rebates. Without rebates, the month would be 2% above average. Measuring over a 12-month period, the average is \$1,483 PEPM, this is 4.6% above the average from this time last year of \$1,418. The average inflation rate in the area is 8.3%.

*\*Total Costs include all Medical and Rx related charges, specifically: Claims, Stop-loss Premiums, Third-Party Administration Fees, Rebates, and Taxes.*



The exhibit titled ‘PEPM and Enrollment’ shows claim utilization (line) with the corresponding enrollment (bar) in that given month. The spikes in utilization from March was for a large claimant and August/September are from a combination of ‘Runout’ claims against lower enrollment and some once delayed services rescheduled. Six consecutive months of steady claims with a couple of dips due from Rx rebates, enrollment has also steadied for the that same period.

### Innovation Subcommittee

The Innovations Subcommittee held their regularly scheduled meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Medhat Kaldas was our guest and presenter. He shared and reviewed with us annual aggregated utilization data for the NY44 Health plan. This data helps determine if there are opportunities to mitigate or control spend by introducing other programs, for example a diabetes program. Additionally, the committee will be exploring consumer resources available through Nova/IH, MVP and/or other vendors to enhance how members utilize the plan, such as cost transparency tools. These cost transparency tools enable members to pre-determine estimated costs prior to receiving treatment for services such as an MRI, x-ray, knee surgery or other diagnostic tests.

The Innovations Subcommittee will be meet again on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Population Health Subcommittee

Our subcommittee is continuing collaboration with the Finance Committee to produce individual school dashboards with relevant population health data such things as top chronic conditions, top prescription drug utilizations and spends and emergency room usage. Our goal is to share these in July at our Population Health subcommittee open forum.

The communication team is adding language to an open enrollment mailer promoting Spark360UNPLUG mindfulness and behavioral health platform. It will also include a QR code to scan from your smartphone which will take you directly to the website.

As a reminder the wellness information is now a part of the Trust’s Monthly News Brief. Articles included information about self-care during Covid, nutrition advice and our monthly comprehensive wellness newsletter. SparkUNPLUG is still available on demand and is an excellent mindfulness, stress reduction and gratitude resource to share with your staff: [SparkUNPLUG](#).

## MARCH WELLNESS NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



### The 5 Toughest Pieces of Nutrition Advice to Follow

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1/3 of Americans are obese, a disease linked to some of the leading causes of preventable death. Learn more [here](#).



### Tips to Help You Prioritize Your Self-Care During COVID-19

Dealing with social distancing and quarantine for over a year can make even the most introverted among us feel isolated. If it feels like you're drowning in information and are desperately seeking a rescue, consider this your lifeguard. Learn more [here](#).

### Smart Health March Newsletter

Learn how to get immunity support from what's on your plate, follow dietary supplement safeguards, and the importance of sleep with rest-friendly measures to help you feel restored and renewed every day. Learn more [here](#).



### NY44 COMMUNICATIONS FLOW CHART

We understand the importance of relevant information being circulated to the appropriate groups at your schools. With our newly crafted [Communications Flow Chart](#), we feel this is a proactive solution to help alleviate any issues receiving the intended communication material.

## Fiscal Update as of February 2021

Revenue and Disbursements – This view is of the Full Book of Business for the Trust and the accounts are now organized in the same manner as the Annual Audited Financial Statements. The three columns are Revenue and Disbursements recorded monthly, running fiscal to date total, and the year end of the previous year for comparison. The bottom number shows that the monthly and yearly totals are not in a deficit, improving the financial health of the Trust moving forward. Line-item other expenses include operational expenses, insurance bond liability, secure email services, bank lockbox, etc. The full February Fiscal Report will be posted to the website.

Revenue & Disbursements	Time Period 02/28/2021	Year to Date 7/1/2020 - 02/28/2021	Audited Financial Statement Ending 6/30/2020 (Year before)
<b>Revenues</b>			
Participants' Premium Contributions	\$ 9,951,163	\$ 81,299,210	\$ 163,508,502
Participants' Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RDS-Drug Subsidy	\$ -	\$ 396,096.16	\$ 482,033
Interest Income	\$ 21,201	\$ 105,120	\$ 142,357
Trust Administrative Fee	\$ 69,000	\$ 560,688	\$ 1,146,385
Realized Chg in Investments	\$ (23,157)	\$ (51,793)	\$ 16,941
Pharmacy Rebates	\$ 1,734,401	\$ 3,904,264	\$ 7,564,839
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Med Reimburse claims by TPA internal audits	\$ 9,927	\$ 578,319	\$ 276,826
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 11,762,535</b>	<b>\$ 86,791,904</b>	<b>\$ 173,137,883</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Medical, Rx, and Dental Claim Payments	\$ 9,277,573	\$ 73,490,585	\$ 136,702,031
Claim Administrative fees-TPA	\$ 259,031	\$ 1,939,831	\$ 3,800,044
Salaries Payroll Taxes	\$ 41,978	\$ 198,789	\$ 89,431
Legal and Consulting	\$ 69,054	\$ 553,839	\$ 1,016,855
Insurance	\$ 53,919	\$ 441,615	\$ 874,245
PCORI	\$ -	\$ 46,569	\$ 64,410
Other	\$ 3,276	\$ 38,654	\$ 231,846
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Wellness Reimburse program ended 6/2019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 297,801
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,704,830</b>	<b>\$ 76,709,881</b>	<b>\$ 143,076,663</b>
<b>Net Revenues - Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 2,057,705</b>	<b>\$ 10,082,023</b>	<b>\$ 30,061,220</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, at beginning of Year</b>		<b>\$ 38,054,722</b>	<b>\$ 7,993,502</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, at YTD and end of year</b>		<b>\$ 48,136,745</b>	<b>\$ 38,054,722</b>

**Other Sharing Points:**

- Open Enrollment Workshop for Benefit Administrators will be held via Cisco WebEx on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Open Enrollment is May 1-31<sup>st</sup> for coverage effective July 1, 2021.
- If your school is interested in Guardian Dental for the July 1, 2021 plan year please contact Steve Baltas at [SBaltas@oswaldcompanies.com](mailto:SBaltas@oswaldcompanies.com)
- Please watch for the following coming to your mailbox soon: Open Enrollment Newsletter and Capital Rx Communication
- Check the [www.ny44.e1b.org](http://www.ny44.e1b.org) website for updates.
- Upcoming Board Meeting on May 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Best Regards,

Alice B. Riley, Manager of Finance and Enrollment  
NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust  
NY44.e1b.org

Thoughts, comments, feedback? We can be reached at [NY44@OswaldCompanies.com](mailto:NY44@OswaldCompanies.com)

**You are receiving the News Brief as an individual who has been identified by your school district as a contact person, either as the Superintendent, Business Official, Union President, or Benefit Administrator.**

Periodically email communication will be sent out from the NY44 Trust or from our consultants at Oswald Companies. The communications may include surveys, updates, Board/Annual meetings, or Subcommittee summaries of open forum meetings. We ask that at the district level a process to coordinate the delivery of information to your enrollees is implemented on the best practices you have already developed. Some successful areas used in the past are the internal staff intranet or emailing directly to the enrollee from HR-Benefits, Union Presidents, or depending on the message a mass email to all active and retired employees. The school has available the most current email addresses. We have found that the bswift enrollment system is missing or has not been updated with the current contact information. There will be other communication that will be sent from or on behalf of the NY44 Trust to the enrollees too, such as postcards and newsletters.

The NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust is a self-funded plan working in partnership with the school districts. As we continue to have the Committee Open forums, we appreciate your participation and ask that you join us. Thank you.