

# NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting

Minutes: Number 119, October 21, 2021

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## Opening of Meeting 3:06 PM

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

### 1. Public Comments and Questions

Vice Chair Donna Walters thanked Stacey Porter, NY44 Benefits Specialist, for resolving members' concerns during the transition to the new PBM, Capital Rx.

## A. Presentations/ Informational Items

### 1. Fiscal Update

Alice Riley reported that cash and investments as of 9/30/21 were approximately \$54M and the equity position (assets minus liabilities) for 9/30/21 is approximately \$46.5M with \$7.8M in liabilities

The Trust received Rx rebate revenue for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 in the sum of \$1.6M. There will be two more payments coming for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 and then the rebates from PBD will end.

In regard to The Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS), we received a payment from RDS for the plan year 2020-2021 on 9/17/21 in the sum of \$342,416. After reconciliation, RDS will take its 2% subsidy.

From 7/1/21 to 11/1/21, there have been 133 new enrollments.

The Statement of Cash Flow does not include dental or administrative expenses. Dental claims in August and September are usually very heavy due to college and school-aged students obtaining services before returning to classes.

## B. Administrative Report

### 1. J Graham Audit – MVP Reimbursement

Alice Riley reported that through an audit, J. Graham found that MVP was not paying claims regarding newborns properly. As a result, MVP forwarded a refund to the Trust to reimburse for these claims.

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## 2. Dental Multi-Services on Same Day Claims Reprocessing

Janet Lukacs, Oswald Companies, reported that Guardian updated their system after confirming with ProBenefits, the Trust's former dental carrier, that they did pay for two services (an office visit and a corresponding procedure) on the same day. The Trustees approved changing Guardian's adjudication of these types of claims and Guardian identified 32 members who were impacted. All claims for the 32 members have been reprocessed and paid.

## C. Consultant Report

### 1. Subcommittee Updates

#### a. Financial Committee

Medhat Kaldas, Oswald Companies, reported on utilization. This was a pretty high month – about 13% higher than the fiscal year. A lot of activity was around large claimants. Two out of the three large claimants look to be acute. After the Capital Rx and Payer Matrix arrangement, PEPM is \$398.01 which is a 22% drop. Rebates are not included because the arrangement hasn't been in place long enough to generate a rebate.

The average utilization is a result of large claimant activity and two out of three acute claimants have claims totaling \$809K for July and August.

#### b. Communications Committee

John Kertis, Oswald Companies, reported on the website analytics. The website has seen quite a bit of mobile activity since 8/24/21, representing 25.6% of all pageviews.

The Subcommittee held an Open Forum meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> where they shared a recap of the projects completed within the first half of 2021. The Subcommittee's focus is on investigating ways to increase direct communication to enrollees.

#### c. Population Health Committee

Cindi Morris, Oswald Companies, reported on the new claims Performance Dashboard which is a summary report of relevant district population health data such as demographics, top chronic conditions, top prescription drug utilization, etc. If schools are interested in a report for their district, they can send an email to [NY44@oswaldcompanies.com](mailto:NY44@oswaldcompanies.com) to request one.

Monthly News Brief wellness topics include:

- National Immunization Awareness Month
- Reframing Negative Thoughts
- SMART Health Newsletter

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Cindi also provided a reminder that the following resources are available:

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

## d. Innovation Committee

Janet Lukacs, Oswald Companies, reported on the Capital Rx and Payer Matrix transition. In August, 13,437 claims were processed and the average cost per script was approximately \$160. Payer Matrix has saved the Trust a total of just over \$1M through August.

There will be some disruption in the formulary following the transition from PBD to Capital Rx. The Trust delayed the impact to members by extending the Continuation of Therapy which was originally going to be through 10/1/21 to 12/1/21. This means if a member is currently on a drug that is not included on Capital Rx's formulary, they will need to discuss alternatives with their doctors. An email will go out to the schools advising that affected members will receive direct letters. We encourage members who receive these letters to reach out to their physicians and Capital Rx upon receipt. Letters will go out before November 1<sup>st</sup>. Janet and Stacey Porter, NY44 Benefits Specialist, will schedule calls with the districts which are most impacted to provide information to them ahead of their members contacting them. Sample letters will be posted on the NY44 website. In addition, a postcard mailing will go out to members and will contain QR codes so that members can view the formulary.

The Innovations subcommittee is continuing work on quality and cost transparency tools and upon completion, will present its findings to the Board of Trustees. The concept is to provide members with tools so they can locate quality providers assessed by outcomes and cost effectiveness. The committee is looking at financial rewards to reward members for better shopping if approved by the Trustees. The committee is currently continuing to work on a return-on-investment analysis.

## e. Benefits Committee

Steve Baltas, Oswald Companies, reported that the subcommittee held meetings on 9/23 and 10/20 and continues to monitor the Rx transition and formulary changes and the effect on members.

The Board of Trustees approved the Subcommittee's recommendation for a chiropractic visit limitation. The Subcommittee will have an Open Forum meeting in November focusing on chiropractic care.

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## General Trust Business

### 1. Status of Districts

No change

## D. Approval of Minutes

### 1. Meeting Number 118, August 26, 2021

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 118, held on 8/26/21, was made by Bob Giannicchi, seconded by John Pope and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

## E. Old Business

None

## F. New Business

### 1. Vote on Board Resolutions:

- a. Approval in Executive Session to approve multiple dental services performed on same day
- b. Approval via email to limit chiropractic visits to 36 combined visits per calendar year

## Adjournment

### 1. Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on Thursday, 11/18/21, at 3:00 PM

The motion to adjourn at 4:03 PM was made by Liz Freas, seconded by Michelle Okal-Frink and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora L. Schasel  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees