

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

Minutes: Number 121, January 20, 2022

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## **Opening of Meeting 3:08 PM**

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Vice Chair Donna Walters, Trustees John Pope, Candace Reimer, Elizabeth Freas, Michelle Okal-Frink, Christa McHale, Deborah Piatek and David Scalzo. Also attending: Office Coordinator, Lora Schasel, Darcie Falsioni, Esq., Representatives from Oswald Companies, Steve Baltas, Janet Lukacs, John Kertis, Medhat Kaldas, and Jess Michel .

Not in Attendance: Trustee Bob Giannicchi

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

None

### **A. Presentations/ Informational Items**

#### **1. Alice Riley's Retirement**

Jim Fregelette, Trust Chair, advised that Alice Riley, the Trust's Fiscal Agent, retired effective 12/31/21 and that efforts are underway to fill her position as soon as possible.

#### **2. Fiscal Update**

Lora Schasel reported that from June to December there was little fluctuation in the equity position as the population didn't significantly change. A Rx rebate was received for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 in November in the amount of \$1.6M and there will be one more rebate from PBD (the previous PBM) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 that we expect to receive shortly. Retiree Drug Subsidy for the 2020 -2021 plan year was received on 9/17/21 in the sum of \$342,416. Enrollment grew by 159 from 7/1/21 to 2/1/22. Total cash and investments is currently \$62M. Revenue versus Expenses shows that as of December 2021, revenue is ahead of expenses, and we are in a good financial position.

Dental claims showed normal upward trend during August and September due to summer break for school/college and will probably fluctuate again during March/April due to spring break.

### **B. Administrative Report**

None

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## C. Consultant Report

### 1. Subcommittee Updates

#### a. Financial Committee

Medhat Kaldas, Oswald Companies, reported on utilization. This month the PEPM is 20.6% lower when compared to the fiscal year (\$1228 compared to \$1546). The current fiscal year is up 1.8% compared to the same period last year (\$1518 PEPM July-November 2020)

There was a substantial dip in prescription costs for July. For the 12 months prior to the implementation of Pharmacy Managers, the cost was \$518.77 PEPM compared to after implementation when it fell by 25.7% to \$385.39 PEPM.

#### b. Communications Committee

John Kertis, Oswald Companies, reported on the website analytics. Reviewing users by type of device, the desktop computer is the most used method for website access, followed by mobile devices. We have increased use of QR codes to make access easier.

Users and page views have fallen off for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, possibly due to the holidays. We will use page view data to determine which pages are viewed the most to strategically place scrolling messaging, etc. where the greatest number of enrollees will see them. The committee sent out a year end Newsletter in December and is currently working on the content for a postcard to be sent out next quarter. The subcommittee would like to remind the Benefit Administrators to disseminate any information they receive to their employees and to keep email addresses for enrollees current.

#### c. Population Health Committee

Jess Michel, Oswald Companies, reported that Monthly News Brief wellness topics include:

- 8 Ways to Fight Winter Weight Gain
- Benefits of Exercising During the Workday
- National Blood Donor Month

Jess indicated that the Performance dashboard 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.

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The subcommittee has been looking at ideas to increase engagement for all Trust subcommittee meetings, Board of Trustee meetings, etc. and introduced a new point system whereby districts can earn incentive dollars based on attendance at meetings. These incentive dollars can then be used by the school for wellness-related activities such as wellness gift cards for staff, nutritious snacks for breakrooms, etc.

Jess 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 Quality & Cost Transparency tools that the subcommittee has been working on. The Return on Investment analysis has been completed and was reviewed by the committee in December. The committee then requested specific examples of actual claims and providers used by the Trust's members and will review these during their January meeting. If this information is sufficient, they will report their findings to the Trustees at the next Board meeting.

Janet reported on the Capital Rx and Payer Matrix transition. The Capital Rx year to date claim statistics through December 2021 show that there have been 76,030 claims for a total gross spend of \$11.5M

The Payer Matrix program has saved over \$3M in claims costs through December 31<sup>st</sup> for specialty drugs that qualified and were approved for alternate funding. These members had little to no out-of-pocket costs.

## **e. Benefits Committee**

Janet Lukacs, Oswald Companies reported that the subcommittee had an Open Forum presentation on November 30<sup>th</sup> which discussed the new chiropractic care visit limitation of 36 visits for the Traditional plan, provided a dental update indicating that the change in administrators resulted in a 15.2% PEPM savings and provided an update regarding the delay in Capital Rx standard formulary changes as well as the option to receive 90-day maintenance drugs locally at Wegman's and Stony Point retail pharmacies. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 2/15/22.

## **General Trust Business**

### **1. Status of Districts**

No change

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## **D. Approval of Minutes**

### **1. Meeting Number 120, November 18, 2021**

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 120, held on 11/18/21, was made by John Pope, seconded by Christa McHale and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

## **E. Old Business**

None

## **F. New Business**

None

## **Adjournment**

### **1. Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on Thursday, 2/17/22, at 3:00 PM**

The motion to adjourn at 3:41 PM was made by Liz Freas, seconded by Christa McHale and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora L. Schasel  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees