

NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting

Minutes: Number 123, March 15, 2022

Opening of Meeting 3:32 PM

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Trustees Elizabeth Freas, John Pope, Michelle Okal-Frink, Candace Reimer, Christa McHale, Bob Giannicchi, 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: Vice Chair Donna Walters

1. Public Comments and Questions

None

A. Presentations/ Informational Items

1. Fiscal Update

Lora Schasel reported that from June through February there was little fluctuation in the equity position as the population had no significant change. The final Rx rebate from PBD (the previous pharmacy manager) was received for the 2nd quarter of 2021 on 2/8/22 in the amount of \$1.7M, bringing the total rebates received for the 2021- 22 plan year to \$5.1M. The Trust will be requesting a payment from RDS for the 2021- 22 plan year by mid-August and steps have already begun to apply for the upcoming 2022-23 plan year. Enrollment grew by 159 from 7/1/21 to 4/1/22. Total cash and investments is currently \$61M. Revenue versus Expenses shows the Trust continues to be in a good financial position with revenues ahead of expenses.

Dental claims showed a normal upward trend during August and September due to summer break for school/college as well as during December and January for winter recess. This will probably be the case again during March/April due to spring break.

B. Administrative Report

None

C. Consultant Report

1. Subcommittee Updates

a. Financial Committee

Medhat Kaldas, Oswald Companies, reported on utilization. This month is approximately 32% higher than the fiscal year (\$2,188 PEPM compared to \$1,662 PEPM). The most recent 12 months is up almost 13% (\$1,673 PEPM vs. \$1,483). The average medical trend in the area ranges from 6.8% to 7.3%. In the fiscal year, the ten largest claimants averaged \$408K each. The largest claimant had over \$165K in January and the 2nd largest claimant had \$260K in January. The 3rd largest had \$450K in

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claims for January. The average prescription cost with the previous vendor was \$525.44 PEPM and the average cost with the new vendor (Capital Rx) is \$390.55 PEPM, a decrease of -25.7%

b. Communications Committee

John Kertis, Oswald Companies, reported on the website analytics.

The desktop continues to be the most used device to access the Trust website. The most viewed pages will be getting relevant scrolling messaging in an effort to get information out to the greatest number of members.

A postcard will go out by the end of the month to the “grandfathered” members as a reminder of the 7/1/22 formulary changes

The Communications Subcommittee will hold an Open Forum on 3/24 with Agenda topics including

- Capital Rx Update
- Pilot Project - Emails from NY44 direct to members
- Wellness Credits for your School
- OE Reminders
- Financial Report

c. Population Health Committee

Jess Michel, Oswald Companies, reported that monthly wellness topics include:

- National Nutrition Month
- National Sleep Awareness Week (March 13-19)
- March = Kidney 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 to request one.

A review of the subcommittee’s new point system whereby districts can earn incentive dollars based on attendance at Trust Board meetings, Subcommittee Open Forums, etc. was provided. These incentive dollars can then be used by the school for wellness-related activities.

Jess gave a review of the Top 10 health conditions for claims paid from January 2021 through December 2021. She indicated that #1 “Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services” could be for vaccines, etc. and that there were 22,458 claimants in that category.

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There are “On demand” wellness resources on the website under the participating schools tab which includes:

- Monthly Wellness Tips & Information
- On-demand Health/Wellness Articles & Videos
- Mindfulness Accessibility
- Tracking: Nutrition & Exercise

d. Innovation Committee

Janet Lukacs, Oswald Companies, reported on the Quality & Cost Transparency tools that the subcommittee has been working on. The committee requested specific examples of actual claims and providers used by the Trust’s members and the vendor is finalizing examples. The subcommittee will meet and determine if the additional information is sufficient to report their findings to the Trustees at the May Board meeting.

Janet gave an update on the upcoming prescription drug formulary changes:

- Effective July 1st, those members who were “grandfathered/delayed” on January 1st, will receive a postcard notification as a reminder.
- Capital Rx will be issuing letters to members for the new July 1st formulary changes. The BAs at the schools will be notified with a report of impacted members.
- Letters scheduled to go out end of March 2022.

Next Open Forum meeting will be in April.

e. Benefits Committee

Steve Baltas, Oswald Companies, reported that the Subcommittee’s next scheduled meeting is 3/16/22.

The Subcommittee continues to explore vision coverage options which includes reviewing the benefit to enrollees, the cost to enrollees and the cost to the Trust.

General Trust Business

1. Status of Districts

No change

Approval of Minutes

2. Meeting Number 122, February 17, 2022

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 122, held on 2/17/22, was made by Candace Reimer, seconded by John Pope and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

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D. Old Business

None

E. New Business

1. Trust Annual Meeting – Wednesday, April 27, 2022
4:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Michael's Catering and Banquets,
Hamburg – an invite will be coming soon
2. Vote on Board Resolutions:
 - a. Approval of 2022/2023 Contribution Rates
The motion to approve the 2022/2023 Contribution Rates was made by Michelle Okal-Frink, seconded by Robert Giannicchi and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**
 - b. Approval of Addition of At Large Trustees
The motion to approve the Addition of At Large Trustees was made by Christa McHale, seconded by Elizabeth Freas and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**
 - c. Approval of Fiscal Agent as Trust Employee
The motion to approve the Fiscal Agent as a Trust Employee was made by John Pope, seconded by Candace Reimer and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**
 - d. Approval of Amended and Restated Trust Agreement
The motion to approve the Amended and Restated Trust Agreement was made by Elizabeth Freas, seconded by Christa McHale and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

Adjournment

1. **Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on Thursday, 5/19/22 at 3:00 PM**
The motion to adjourn at 4:13 PM was made by Elizabeth Freas, seconded by Robert Giannicchi and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora L. Schasel
Secretary to the Board of Trustees