

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

Minutes: Number 124, May 19, 2022

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## **Opening of Meeting 3:07 PM**

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Vice Chair Donna Walters, 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, Benefits Specialist, Stacey Porter, Darcie Falsioni, Esq., Representatives from Oswald Companies, Steve Baltas, Janet Lukacs, John Kertis, Medhat Kaldas, and Jess Michel .

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

None

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

### **1. Fiscal Update**

Lora Schasel reported that from June through April there was little fluctuation in the equity position as the population had no significant change.

The first Rx rebate from Capital Rx was received for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 on 4/1/22 in the amount of \$1.4M and another rebate from PBD was received on 5/3/22 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2022 in the amount of \$57K bringing the total rebates received for the 2021- 22 plan year to \$6.5M. The Trust will be requesting a payment from RDS for the 2021- 22 plan year by mid-August and have completed the steps for the application for the 2022-23 plan year. Enrollment grew by 156 from 7/1/21 to 6/1/22. Total cash and investments is currently \$61M. Revenue versus Expenses shows the Trust continues to be in good financial health 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 was seen again during March/April due to spring break.

### **2. Proposed 2022/2023 Administrative Budget**

Lora Schasel presented the proposed 2022-23 Administrative budget and advised that the budget is .4% higher than the current year with projected salaries and benefits amount representing three Trust staff positions. She indicated that office rent increased by 1% and that technology support is projected to increase due to upgrades in equipment. Miscellaneous Operational Costs have increased due to increases in insurance, postage for increased member mailings and increased travel for district audits, etc.

## **Administrative Report**

### **1. Open Enrollment Update**

Stacey Porter gave an update on open enrollment. All schools were sent open enrollment documents and an open enrollment presentation was given to all Benefit Administrators as well as posted on the NY44 website. There are two new Benefit Administrators who are going through their first open enrollment.

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## **2. School Audits**

Stacey Porter gave an update on the scheduling of school audits which will be resuming this year. Currently all districts are scheduled through September with the exception of North Rockland. The audits include ensuring they have the necessary documentation as it relates to domestic partners, out of area dependents, disability, Medicare coverage, etc. Stacey will also be discussing the Population Health Subcommittee's new engagement strategy points system and the dashboard with each district when she conducts her audits.

## **3. Trust Annual Meeting Review**

Vice Chair, Donna Walters, gave a review of the April 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held at Michael's Banquet Center in Hamburg. A welcome message was given by Jim Fregelette, Trust Chair and John Rodgers, EVP & COO of Independent Health, followed by short presentations on Trust Governance by Chair Jim Fregelette, the STAR report by Medhat Kaldas of Oswald, the Actuarial report by Monica Cecilia of BPAS and a review of the Trust accomplishments this year and future plans given by Vice Chair Donna Walters. The evening ended with Vice Chair Donna Walters delivering closing remarks.

## **B. Consultant Report**

### **1. Subcommittee Updates**

#### **a. Financial Committee**

Vice Chair, Donna Walters, reported on utilization. The month of March was 5% higher than the fiscal year (\$1,699 PEPM compared to \$1,614 PEPM). The fiscal year average of \$1,614 is 3.1% higher than the average from last year .

The average medical trend in our area ranges from 6.8 – 7.3%, but we are still below that average.

Annual claims utilization totaled \$106M and with fees and rebates totaled \$110.8M for an average of \$1,627 PEPM

The largest claimant has met the stop loss limit and the Trust's exposure is now capped. For the fiscal year, the 10 largest claimants averaged \$469K each.

The average prescription cost with the previous vendor was \$546.67 PEPM and the average cost with the new vendor (Capital Rx) is \$395.26 PEPM, a decrease of -27.7%

#### **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 website is a responsive site and works well with mobile devices. The page-view report has moved to a

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complete quarter and incomplete current quarter format. The Enrollee/Western Region continues to have the most page views.

John indicated that The Trust recognizes that the website should be accessible to the broadest audience possible under the guidelines of the ADA and WCAG for hearing, sight and other challenges. Toward that goal, on 5/10 software was installed to optimize site accessibility. An accessibility icon now appears on each webpage and allows users to adjust the site to fit their needs more closely. Despite our efforts, there may still be some content that is not fully accessible. We are in the process of making changes to that content to improve accessibility going forward.

## c. Population Health Committee

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

- High Blood Pressure Education Month
- National Mental Health Month
- Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Jess gave a brief 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. These incentive dollars can then be used by the school for wellness-related activities. Jess indicated that the committee is recommending an extension to earn points through September 30, 2022.

Jess gave a review of the Top 10 health conditions for claims paid from January 2021 through December 2021.

Jess reminded everyone 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.

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 that the committee met on May 11th and reviewed actual examples from NY44 claims data based on NY44 providers in regard to the proposed Quality & Cost Transparency – Member Incentive Program. Based on the examples, the subcommittee agreed they would present to the Trustees on June 23rd during Executive Session.

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Some follow-up questions remain regarding contract terms (1 yr. vs. multi-yr.), guarantees on savings and recommendations on setting member incentives with vendor. Janet noted that the program does not change any existing benefits.

Janet gave an update on the prescription drug formulary changes:

- Letters were re-mailed to those members who were “grandfathered/delayed” from January 1<sup>st</sup> formulary changes postponed to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- NY44 and Oswald continue to work with Capital Rx and Walmart regarding the auto refill process

## e. Benefits Committee

Steve Baltas, Oswald Companies, reported that the committee met on 5/17/22 and discussion during the meeting included the following:

- Davis Vision extension for a one-year term to match the renewal of the MVP services agreement. Davis Vision had previously agreed to hold the rate.
- Requesting approval from the Trustees to remove the limitation currently in place for ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapy.
- The subcommittee met with John Graham, owner and auditor with JGI, to discuss an audit schedule for medical, dental, and pharmacy plans. John has recovered over \$2M for the Trust through audits.

The Subcommittee’s next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2022.

## General Trust Business

### 1. Status of Districts

No change

## Approval of Minutes

### 2. Meeting Number 123, March 15, 2022

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 123, held on 3/15/22, was made by John Pope, seconded by Robert Giannicchi and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

## C. Old Business

None

## D. New Business

1. Report on Board of Trustee Approval in Lieu of a Meeting:
  - a. Approval via email – renewal of Trust fiduciary liability insurance coverage
  - b. Approval via email – renewal of MVP services agreement

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## 2. Vote on Board Resolutions:

### a. Approval of 2022/2023 Administrative Budget

The motion to approve the 2022/2023 Administrative Budget was made by Deborah Piatek, seconded by Robert Giannicchi and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

### b. Approval of renewal of Davis Vision services agreement

The motion to approve the renewal of Davis Vision services agreement was made by Elizabeth Freas, seconded by Christa McHale and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

### c. Approval of removal of ABA therapy limitation

The motion to approve the ABA therapy limitation was made by John Pope, seconded by Michelle Okal-Frink and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

### d. Approval of extension of district incentive engagement strategy

The motion to approve extension of the district incentive engagement strategy until September 30, 2022 was made by Michelle Okal-Frink, seconded by Elizabeth Freas and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

## **Adjournment**

### **1. Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on Thursday, 6/23/22 at 3:00 PM**

The motion to adjourn at 4:06 PM was made by John Pope, 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