

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

Minutes: Number 135, January 30, 2024

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## **Opening of Meeting 3:02 PM**

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Vice Chair Donna Walters, Trustees John Pope, Elizabeth Freas, Christa McHale, Deborah Piatek, Candace Reimer, Robert Giannicchi, David Scalzo, Wayne Drescher, Michelle Struzik

Also attending: Fiscal Agent, Lora Schasel; Benefits Specialist, Stacey Porter, Darcie Falsioni, Esq., Representatives from Oswald Companies, Steve Baltas, John Kertis, Medhat Kaldas, Gretchen Heil, Jessica Ihrig, Lee MacPhail, and Molly Mausar.

Not in Attendance: Michelle Okal-Frink

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

None

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

### **1. Fiscal Update**

Lora Schasel reported that the Trust's total assets as of December 2023 were \$69.6M and the total equity was \$57.9M. The Trust's net assets as of December 2023 were \$69.5M. There was little change in the population. The Balance Sheet indicates that the Trust has a continued favorable equity position through the end of December 2023 with total equity of \$59.7M.

An Rx rebate was received from Capital Rx on 12/22/23 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2022 in the sum of \$593,487 and on 12/26/23 for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023 in the sum of \$1,921,857.

Enrollment increased by 90 from the beginning of the plan year with the biggest change being in the single coverage tier. Total cash and investments are currently \$74.3 M. Revenue versus Expenses shows the Trust continues to be in good financial health with revenues ahead of expenses.

Lora advised that dental claims were high July, August, September decreasing the last three months of 2023. As a result, the Trust is currently at a \$25.7.7K deficit through the end of December 2023.

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## **Administrative Report**

### **1. Audit Update**

Stacey Porter reported that through the IHA audit process conducted by John Graham, the Trust will be receiving reimbursement in the amount of \$342,000.00. Through the same audit process conducted by John Graham the Trust will be receiving reimbursement in the amount of \$509,949.00 from MVP for the period of 2017-2021.

### **2. HCBB (Healthcare Bluebook) Update**

The number of rewards issued is increasing and as of Nov 2023, the number of rewards that have been issued to our members (May 2023-November 2023) is 152. The total amount of the rewards is \$11,090.00.

### **3. Brook + Update**

As of January 2024, the total number of IHA members is 417 with a total of 1,413 lbs lost. The total number of MVP members is 64 with a total of 149 lost.

### **4. Email Communication Update**

Stacey reported that in the first month we started the project of obtaining personal email address (May 2023) we had 597 total. As of Jan 2024, we now have a total of 2,802 personal emails.

## **B. Consultant Report**

### **1. Subcommittee Updates**

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

Medhat Kaldas, Oswald Companies, reported on utilization. The November PEPM was \$1,832, which was 22% higher than the annual average of \$1,543. The medical and Rx total claim utilization is up by 11.8% from the average.

From July 2023 through Nov 2023, the 10 largest claimants made up 7.2% of all claims. The largest claim for medical was \$865,652.00.

#### **b. Communications Committee**

John Kertis, Oswald Companies, reported on the website analytics. Users by device have remained steady with the desktop being the most used device.

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HCBB continues to be in the top 5 in page views. Brook + steadily increasing its viewers.

HCBB continues to be in the top 5 in page views. Brook + steadily increasing its viewers. The analytics illustrate that the programs we have been promoting are being visited.

The Communications Subcommittee hosted an Open Forum on January 31, 2024, and covered the following topics: Reminder about Optum, Brook+ Diabetes Prevention Program, Healthcare Bluebook.

Healthcare Bluebook launched an Engagement Game with incentive. There were 62 completed entries and prizes were awarded at random to 3 members.

## c. Population Health Committee

Molly Mauser reported that monthly wellness topics include:

- Survey to submit ideas for Wellness Tips
- Information on a Low Carb Diet
- The Best Healthy Recipes

Molly gave a review of the Engagement Incentive Program which provides districts with an opportunity to earn participation points towards cash incentives for wellness related activities for their school.

A reminder was given 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

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## d. Innovation Committee

Gretchen Heil, Oswald Companies, gave a recap of: Healthcare Trends to watch for in 2024. Also gave a high-level overview of Spring Health, which is a robust Mental Health program. Discussed the other districts that already have an EAP in place. Gretchen also gave a brief informational presentation on GRAIL Cancer Detection. Currently not FDA approved.

## e. Benefits Committee

Steve Baltas, Oswald Companies, reported that the subcommittee is working on:

Reviewing IHA payments and coordination of Medicare Claims, as well as continuing to examine fertility benefits.

## General Trust Business

None

## Approval of Minutes

1. **Meeting Number, 134, October 17, 2023**
2. The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 134 held on, October 17, 2023, was made by John Pope, seconded by Liz Freas and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

## C. Old Business

None

## D. New Business

None

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## **Adjournment**

### **1. Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on March 21, 2024, at 3:00 PM**

The motion to adjourn at 3:55 pm was made by Dave Scalzo seconded by Bob Giannicchi, and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Porter  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees