

# NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting

Minutes: Number 139, August 22, 2024

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## Opening of Meeting: 1:30 PM

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Vice Chair Donna Walters, Trustees Barb Smith, Eileen Fleming, Zachary Izard, Frances DiFrancesco, Luke Silliman, Candace Reimer, Christa McHale, John Pope, Laurie Widman, David Scalzo, Robert Giannicchi

Also attending: Fiscal Agent, Lora Schasel, Benefits Specialist, Stacey Porter, Trust Secretary, Abby Maher, Darcie Falsioni, Esq., Representatives from Oswald Companies, Gretchen Heil, Jessica Ihrig, John Kertis, Medhat Kaldas and Jess Michel.

Not in Attendance: Michelle Okal-Frink

### 1. Public Comments and Questions:

Welcome to our new Trustees Barb Smith, Eileen Fleming, Zachary Izard, Frances DiFrancesco, Luke Silliman, and Laurie Widman.

## A. Presentations/ Informational Items

### 1. Fiscal Update

Lora Schasel reported on the financial period beginning 7/01/2024 through 7/31/2024 indicates that Trust total assets for July were \$67.8M and total equity was \$56.1M.

For the 2023-24 plan year, we received 8.7M in Rx rebates. We should receive our next Rx rebates next month. The total RDS subsidy received last plan year was \$733K. Since the beginning of the plan year, we have lost 27 enrollees.

Lora reports on the Revenue and Disbursements for the month of July. Net assets on 7/31 were \$48.7M. The bank and investment accounts currently total \$71.1M.

Unaudited figures are subject to change based on the auditor's findings. The auditors have begun the audit of the 2023 – 24 plan year and should have it completed by late September.

July had higher costs than typical medical, and Rx claims due in part to additional funding requirements by IH and/or MVP. We did receive rebate revenue in July in the amount of \$2.4M, but even so, we are currently running at a \$1.2M deficit through the end of July. We anticipate receiving our next rebates next month.

The Dental report through July 2024 is running at a surplus of \$25K due to lower-than-normal claims. The average monthly dental claims expense for the previous plan year was \$122K. The average monthly revenue for that period was \$118K and the admin fee expense is relatively static month to month/year to year. Next month's claims will be \$136K so we will have higher than average claims and be running a monthly deficit of approximately \$9.5K.

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## **2. Administrative Report**

### **a. Update on Brook+ and Healthcare Bluebook**

Stacey Porter reported Healthcare Bluebook totaled 78 rewards for June, \$5,010, the most we've ever had. Total rewards for the last twelve months totaled \$38,035.

Stacey reports Brook+ has four milestones for members to complete. Members register and commit to the program, then engage for two weeks (at which point they will earn a Fitbit). The third milestone will be engagement for an additional two weeks. The last milestone will be engagement for more than ten weeks and 5 percent weight loss.

Stacey shares that the current completion rate for MVP is 11%, and 16% for IH members. The total weight lost for IH members is 2,699 pounds and the average is 4.8% for the 523 IH members enrolled in Brook+ program. The total weight lost for MVP members is 284 pounds and the average is 4.9% for the 94 MVP members enrolled in Brook+ program.

There will be a tele-nutrition model for Brook+ through MVP, coming this Fall. Brook+ attended the Erie 1 BOCES Wellness Day on July 25. There was a lot of engagement with the Brook+ table, enthusiastic members, and star story underway from an excited employee. In addition, a postcard has been sent out to all members this month to promote the program.

Stacey has been conducting the annual district audits. This includes making sure to review paperwork for special cases, ensure Medicare cards are on file, and check Census for active and retired members. Stacey is also there to answer any questions, train new benefit administrators on BSwift, and help members sign up for Brook + and HCBB. Only two districts are left to audit, Cheektowaga Sloan, and Niagara Falls. If your district would like her to visit, she can schedule a visit at your convenience.

## **B. Consultant Report**

### **1. Subcommittee Updates**

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

Medhat Kaldas, Oswald Companies, reported on the Medical and RX plan, noting that the PEPM cost for June was \$1,493. For the last 12 months, the average PEPM cost has been \$1,670, which is 5.1% higher than last year. The figure is ahead of the trend for the area, which sits at 8-9%.

Medhat reports June utilization totaled \$8.9M, down 9.9% from the annual average and down 14.8% from the prior month. Enrollment was at 5,990 for June 2024, up 48 members from the

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average since July 2023. The largest claims come from ten people which total about 5.2% of all claims. None of the members have reached the stop loss point yet.

## b. Communications Committee

John Kertis, Oswald Companies, reported on the website analytics. Users by device has remained steady with the desktop being the most used device. The number of unique users in the second quarter of 2024 was 1,498 which is a 39% increase over the same quarter in 2023.

The Brook+ page has moved up in views since the newsletter was sent out. The Enrollees page on the NY44 Health Trust website remains the most visited, with HealthCare Bluebook to follow second, and Brook+ third.

Jon reports we are in the process are sending out the Fall Newsletter, and the first Open Forum will be in September. In October we will send out the HCBB Game Postcard. Then in December we will end the year engagements with a Year End newsletter.

## c. Population Health Committee

Jess Michel reported the monthly wellness tips for August are:

- Get Ready for Back to School
- National Immunization Month
- Easy Relaxation tips

Jess shares the Population Health Highlight topic, Diabetes Management Recommendation and Tips. Members can utilize the available resources through the Trust Wellness+ portal with Tools & Trackers (nutrition, activity, hydration and more). Users can also find out if they are eligible for the Brook+ program through the portal.

The 2024/2025 engagement strategy proposal is pending Board approval. Once approved, the engagement strategy will be posted to the NY44 Health Trust website. School districts can utilize earned funds from engagement for wellness-related activities. The potential Incentive Dollar Amount is as follows...

25% attendance (187.5 points) = earn 50% incentive  
50% attendance (375 points) = earn 75% incentive  
75% attendance (562.5 points) = earn 100% incentive

Six districts earned incentives in the 2023/2024 plan year – Jess gives congratulations and thanks all for their participation.

Jess reports on the new challenge ‘The Spark America Fit City’ Challenge. It is designed to help individuals and companies become Fit & Healthy Leaders, while working together to build friendly competition. This multi-city challenge encourages participants to get and stay healthy by tracking daily fitness activity minutes in a fun and free Fitness Game. To register, go to

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[SparkAmerica.com/Register](https://SparkAmerica.com/Register), enter your email and follow the prompts. Members can find more on the Wellness+ On-Demand Resource Center.

## d. Innovation Subcommittee Update

Gretchen Heil, Oswald Companies, reported that Oswald is working with both MVP and Independent Health on the cost to implement the Spring Health Program and whether it can be bolted on the current benefits in place with the TPA's. Spring Health will be brought to the Finance Subcommittee for approval once the cost is determined for both TPAs.

Gretchen reports The Innovation Subcommittee met on August 13<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the GLP-1 management program from Capital Rx, called Rx Active+.

This program is powered by Vida – a premier cardiometabolic point solution that is designed to address both physical and mental health for members with chronic conditions.

Rx Activate+ puts Obesity, Diabetes and related conditions all in one place to enhance pharmacy benefit management of GLP-1 medications and treatment of those conditions.

Tentative meeting scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Capital Rx, Vida, Stacey Porter from NY44 and Oswald for a presentation on Rx Activate+. We will be reviewing what the PUPM cost would be and how Rx Activate+ would integrate with the current Brooks+ Program that members are using for diabetes management.

Rx Activate+ guarantees positive member outcomes and does put fees at risk by tracking clinical impact and performance reporting. (Lower A1C levels, improved Hypertension)

## D. Benefits Committee

Steve Baltas, Oswald Companies, was not in attendance. Darcie Falsoni, Esq., welcomes on his behalf the new Benefits Subcommittee members, Trustees Eileen Fleming, Fran DeFrancesco, Luke Silliman and Zachary Izard. Darcie reports the current agenda items the committee is discussing:

- Pharmacy audit
- Weight loss drugs criteria
- Updates to summary plan descriptions (SPDs)
- MVP fee review and recommendation to Finance Subcommittee
- Capital Rx service team updates

The committee meets next in September 2024.

## General Trust Business

### 1. Introduction and Acceptance of new Trustees

The motion to approve the Introduction and acceptance of new Trustees, was made by Robert Giannicchi, seconded by Candace Reimer, and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

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## **Approval of Minutes**

### **1. Meeting Number 138, June 20, 2024**

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 138 held on 6/20/24, 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**

### **1. Vote on Board Resolutions:**

#### **a. Approval of Changes to District Engagement Strategy**

The motion to approve Changes to District Engagement Strategy was made by John Pope, seconded by Barb Smith, and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

#### **b. Approval of RXAlly Level 1 Services**

The motion to approve the RXAlly Level 1 Services was made by Christa McHale, seconded by Barb Smith, and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units).**

## **Adjournment**

### **1. Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on October 17, 2024, at 3:30 PM**

The motion to adjourn at 4:00 PM was made by Candy Reimer and seconded by John Pope, and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail Maher  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees