



Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

125 East Court Street • Ithaca, New York 14850 • (607)274-5590

www.healthconsortium.net • consortium@tompkins-co.org

"Individually and collectively we invest in realizing high quality, affordable, dependable health insurance."

Approved

MINUTES – **DRAFT**

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design October 5, 2017 – 1:30 p.m. Rice Conference Room, Health Department

Present:

Municipal Representatives: 10 members

Judy Drake, Town of Ithaca and Board of Directors Chair; Betty Conger, Village of Groton; Bud Shattuck, Village of Union Springs; Laura Shawley, Town of Danby; Eric Snow, Town of Virgil; Michael Murphy, Village of Dryden; Mark Witmer, Town of Caroline; Schelley Michell-Nunn, City of Ithaca; Stephen Estes, Tompkins County; Jennifer Case, Town of Dryden; Charmagne Rumgay, Town of Lansing

Municipal Representative via Proxy: 2

Carissa Parlato, Town of Ulysses (Proxy – Judy Drake); Tom Brown, Town of Truxton (Proxy – Eric Snow)

Union Representatives: 7 members

Jim Bower, Bolton Point Water Unit; Olivia Hersey, TC3 Professional Admin. Assoc. Unit; Tim Arnold, Town of Dryden DPW Teamsters; Doug Perine, Tompkins County White Collar President; Jeanne Grace, City of Ithaca Executive Unit (arrived at 1:44 p.m.); Zack Nelson, Ithaca City Admin. Unit; Jon Munson, Town of Ithaca Teamsters

Union Representatives via Proxy: 2

Tim Farrell, City of Ithaca DPW Unit (Proxy – Jeanne Grace); Theresa Viza, Tompkins County Library Staff Unit (Proxy – Olivia Hersey)

Others in attendance:

Don Barber, Executive Director; Ted Schiele, Owning Your Own Health Committee Chair

Call to Order

Ms. Hersey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Barber said he will report on behalf of Mr. Locey who was unable to attend.

Approval of Minutes of September 7, 2017

It was MOVED by Ms. Drake, seconded by Mrs. Shawley, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2017 meeting as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Chair's Report

Ms. Hersey reported at its last meeting the Board of Directors, due to utilization data tracking under budget, voted in support of a 4% rate increase which was lower than the original projection of 5%.

Report from Board of Directors Chair

Ms. Drake reported the Board appointed a Nominating Committee that will be working on nominations for 2018 Consortium officers and adopted the 2018 budget which continues to keep the Consortium efficient and rates stable. The Board also passed the increase in the minimum deductible for the Gold Metal Level Plan as recommended by this Committee, renewed the Consortium's contract with ProAct, and approved the acceptance of three municipalities into the Consortium: the Towns of Homer, Newfield, and Owasco, effective January 1, 2018. Work continues on the Excellus contract for 2018.

Financial Report

Mr. Barber reviewed financial year-to-date results and said the Consortium income is running 4.85% above budget after 8 months which is mostly due to pharmaceutical rebates although there was some increase in premium due to an additional 2% in population with the new municipalities that joined in 2017. On the expense side, medical claims are tracking 7% under budget (\$1.3 million) and prescription drug claims are tracking 8.6% under budget (\$700,000) for a total of \$2 million. When the budget was developed for 2017 it was expected that \$1 million in fund balance would be used and instead \$2.5 million has been added to the fund balance.

Mr. Barber referred to a spreadsheet dated August 31, 2017 going forward that shows premium increases of 4% for 2018. He explained the budget contains numbers based on trends and said claims numbers for medical expenses are going up by 7.5% and prescription drug claims are going up 9.5%. These trends are based on numbers Excellus has seen from its other groups. He reviewed other projections contained in the budget for future years, noting that projections are conservative and a lot can happen to change projections. Also, Mr. Barber explained additional funds are being set aside in the catastrophic claims reserve.

Ms. Grace arrived at this time.

Executive Director Report

CanaRx Program

Mr. Barber reported to date since the Consortium began offering the CanaRx program in July there have been a total of 16 individuals who have signed up. ProAct will be sending a letter to subscribers who have an eligible prescription to inform them this program is available at a zero copay and ProAct will continue these mailings on a quarterly basis.

At the request of Ms. Michel Nunn, Mr. Barber will look into how many people are enrolled in the CanaRx program. Ms. Hersey said this makes financial sense to both the member and the Consortium and it is a good thing for labor to remind its members and employees of.

Committee Reports

Mr. Barber said work committees will be working on throughout the year include negotiating the Consortium's Stop Loss insurance policy and negotiating a renewal of the Excellus contract. He

reported on flu clinics and provided the following breakdown of the 207 total attendees at each of the sites:

Ithaca City Hall – 43	Bolton Point - 22
Tompkins County Human Services Building - 42	Cortland Fire Hall – 16
Tompkins County Highway – 16`	Tompkins County Old Jail - 48

He said work will continue on this for future years but noted members may receive a flu vaccination at any pharmacy at no cost. Mr. Schiele announced the Consortium has a new URL for its website: www.healthconsortium.net. The Website Committee is making progress on developing a new website and will be asking for input and feedback from the Committee as the process moves forward.

Mr. Barber said the Governance Structure Committee was formed because there are currently 31 municipalities and 5 labor Directors on the Board. The Committee was charged with looking at how the Board should be structured in the future. A survey was conducted of Directors and the response showed they wish to have a voice in what is happening with the Consortium. It is unlikely that there will be any major structural change at this time; however, the Board may meet less often and may provide more responsibility to committees. He noted that in the last week he has been contacted by three municipalities and they have expressed interest in joining in 2019. Those were the City of Elmira Water District and the Towns of Sennett and Hector.

Mr. Barber responded to a question concerning how big the Consortium could get and said the Municipal Cooperative Agreement states any municipality within the six contiguous counties to Tompkins is eligible to join which potentially could be up to 150 members; however, he spoke of the difficulty in managing a Board that size. He stressed the importance in having Directors who are engaged in order to make decisions and the need to find a way to have labor engaged as well.

Election of 3rd Labor Representative on Board of Directors & Alternate Director

Ms. Hersey asked for volunteers to serve as the 3rd Labor Director and Alternate Directors from labor. Mr. Nelson offered to attend the next Board of Directors meeting to observe before making a commitment.

Ms. Hersey explained the head of a union does not need to be the representative on this Committee; it can be any member of the union group. She also explained that with the inquiries already made from municipalities interested in joining the Consortium it is likely in 2019 that there will be another Labor seat on the Board of Directors. At the last meeting Mr. Locey explained that Article 47 of the New York State Insurance Law is the only setup in which labor is given a voice and labor needs to take advantage of this opportunity.

There was a brief discussion of providing members with a way to attend meetings remotely. Mr. Barber explained this is something that is being looked into. There was interest in pursuing this although Open Meetings Law requirements would need to be included in the discussion and Ms. Hersey suggesting finding a way to assess how many people would take advantage of the technology. In the meantime, Ms. Hersey said she would continue to reach out to bargaining groups.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting Agenda

Due to lack of agenda items, there was consensus to cancel the November and December meeting unless something comes up that warrants a meeting. The election of the Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the January meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, Administrative Clerk