

MINUTES
Eastern Connecticut Health and Medical Cooperative
Board Meeting – Oct. 26, 2023
2:00 - 3:30 pm

Members Present (in-person): Prem Aithal, Jeff Wihbey, Mike Belden, Ian Neviasser, Holly McCalla, Julie Pendleton, Kristina Martineau, John Hall, Troy Hopkins (arrived at 2:01pm), William Merrill (arrived 2:02pm).

Members Present (via zoom): Jan Perruccio

Others present (in-person): Joanne Lund, Thomas Kowalchik, Mark Ambruso (Reg # 18), Maria Cuadros (LEARN).

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

Standing Agenda Items: Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approve minutes of September 28, 2023:

Motion to approve September 28, 2023, meeting minutes by Julie Pendleton, seconded by Holly McCalla. Approved: 8-0 (Troy H., Jan P., and Bill M. arrived after vote).

2. Financial Status Report

- a. September net position of \$5.28M up \$37,000 for the month due to excess of revenues over claims. YTD claims over receipts = \$202k. (See financial reports for further detail).
- b. Large claims (over \$50K = 20 vs large claims last year of 7 as of the end of September. The ECHMC # of employees has grown from 729 last year to 1,174 this year due to the addition of Town of Westbrook, Westbrook Board of Education and RSD # 17. Tom K. provided additional data on a per employee per month for detailed analysis. Discussion regarding the increase in prescription costs was discussed. Tom K. presented detailed analysis of the prescription drug costs. Tom is recommending a complete review of the Prescription drug expenditures and an RFP process. This will be reviewed at a future meeting.

3. Marketing – new members:

- a. Ian N. stated that the Monroe Board of Education and Wilton Board of Education expressed an interest in the ECHMC. Holly and Ian are planning to meet with representatives from both groups on Oct. 31 to answer questions concerning the ECHMC. Both groups are currently self-insured.

4. Update from Vendors/Anthem Update

- a. **Rx program coverage** – Tom went over a new report that provided detailed claim data for the past two years (9/1/21 – 8/31/22 and 9/1/22 – 8/31/23). This data showed that the Pharmacy plan paid expenditures for the past 12 months were \$4,266k vs the prior 12 months of \$2,624k, representing a 62% increase in claims. Tom K. mentioned the trend data for the medical claims showed a small increase of 3.9%.

- b. **Life Insurance Coverage** – Tom mentioned that all groups should submit their latest census data (if they have not already) with life insurance contractual obligation amounts for each group. USI can then review options with other carriers besides The Hartford for a potential 1/1/24. LEARN will provide census data for Goodwin.

5. Old Business:

- a. **Discussion on Goodwin and IDCS membership in the ECHMC**

Tom K provided an update on the Goodwin / LEARN current members in the ECHMC. The claims for this group cannot be broken out separately at this time as the Goodwin employees have always been a part of LEARN. Tom mentioned that separately Goodwin would have approximately 104 contracts next year.

Motion to accept Goodwin into the ECHMC consortium effective July 1, 2024, made by Mike B., seconded by Julie P. Approved: 11-0.

Group discussion concerning a request from IDCS to join the ECHMC. Concerns that this group is very small with insufficient data to analyze creates a risk factor that is different from other school districts. The overall risk potential for high claims versus the estimated annual premium revenue of approximately \$400k and the fact that their plan design is much different makes this group very difficult to evaluate.

A request for a Motion to act on IDCS request was not moved.

6. New Business

- a. **Agenda setting and format for November 16, 2023, meeting.**

- 1. Term Life Insurance – Census data to USI for each group, possibly seek alternative carriers.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Julie Pendleton, seconded by Holly McCalla, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:48pm. – Approved 11-0

Next Meeting – November 16, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

Zoom information will be provided in a calendar invite if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Belden

