

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
TO THE STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**

The Health Policy & Planning Subcommittee to the State Employee Benefits Committee (the “Committee”) met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2024 in a meeting. The meeting was held virtually and in-person at 841 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 101, Dover, DE 19904.

Subcommittee Members Represented or in Attendance:

Director Faith Rentz, Statewide Benefits Office (“SBO”), Department of Human Resources (“DHR”) (Appointee of DHR Secretary Claire DeMatteis), Chair
Ashley Tucker, Deputy State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts (“AOC”), (Appointee of Chief Justice Collins Seitz, Delaware Supreme Court)
William Oberle, Delaware State Trooper’s Association (Appointee of Thomas Brackin, Executive Director, DSTA)
Stuart Snyder, Chief of Staff, Department of Insurance (“DOI”) (Appointee of Commissioner Trinidad Navarro, Insurance Commissioner, DOI)
Robert Scoglietti, Deputy Controller General, Office of the Controller General (“OCG”) (Appointee of Controller General Ruth Ann Miller)
David Bentz, Deputy Director of Health Care Reform, Dept. of Health and Social Services (“DHSS”) (Appointee of DHSS Secretary Josette Manning)
Treasurer Colleen Davis, State Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer (Designee Matthew Rosen, Senior Policy Advisor, OST)
Courtney Stewart, Deputy Director, Office of Management & Budget (“OMB”) (Appointee of OMB Director Cerron Cade)

Subcommittee Members Not Represented or in Attendance:

Keith Warren, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lt. Governor (Appointee of Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long)
Matt Clark, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (“AFSCME”) (Appointee of Shaun O’Brien, Policy Director, AFSCME)
Vacant, State Retiree (Appointee of Karen Field Rogers, State Retiree)

Others in Attendance:

Deputy Director Leighann Hinkle, SBO, DHR	Leah White, Aetna
Stephanie Hartos, SEBC and SEBC Manager, SBO, DHR	Lisa Mantegna, Highmark
Nina Figueroa, Health Policy Advisor, SBO, DHR	Charlene Hrivnak, CVS
Amber Cahill, SBO, DHR	Bria Greenlee, 302 Strategies
Samantha Mountz, SBO, DHR	Paula Roy, Roy & Associates
Susan Meadows-Arnold, SBO, DHR	Louisa Phillips, DHA
Jaclyn Iglesias, Willis Towers Watson “WTW”	Angela Taylor, DHSS
Michelle Gast, WTW	Steven LePage
Brian Stitzel, WTW	Zach Caldwell
Walter Mateja, Merative	Carole Mick, SBO, DHR - Recorder, State Employee Benefits Committee and Subcommittees
Jennifer Moyer, Aetna	

CALLED TO ORDER – DIRECTOR FAITH RENTZ, SBO

Director Rentz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DIRECTOR FAITH RENTZ, SBO

A MOTION was made by Courtney Stewart and seconded by Robert Scoglietti to approve the minutes from the combined Financial/Health Policy & Planning Subcommittee meeting on August 19, 2024.

Abstentions – Faith Rentz

MOTION ADOPTED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DIRECTOR FAITH RENTZ, SBO

Director Rentz highlighted agenda items from this morning's Financial Subcommittee meeting and action items that will require a vote at next week's SEBC meeting.

Director Rentz updated Subcommittee members on the Medicare contract which will take effect January 1, 2025 and was awarded to Highmark earlier this year. The Medicare contract is still undergoing negotiations between Highmark and the Statewide Benefits Office (SBO), which is expected to be completed in October 2024. Additionally, the Special Medicfill Plan document is expected to be completed by October 1, 2024; a copy will be posted to the SBO website prior to Medicare Open Enrollment.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 32 AND UPDATES ON GHIP DIABETES PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – SEBC AND SEBC SUBCOMMITTEE MANAGER, STEPHANIE HARTOS, SBO

Stephanie Hartos provided an overview of House Resolution 32 which urges the SEBC to collaborate with a health system partner and a technology partner to deliver focused and targeted care protocols to a measurable cohort of GHIP plan participants to actively address the growing problem of diabetes and metabolic syndrome. Stephanie Hartos reviewed current offerings through Highmark, Aetna, and other GHIP programs and resources that focus on diabetes and metabolic syndrome prevention and maintenance. Feedback was provided by the Subcommittee on the low utilization of some of these programs, which the SBO will take back to the vendors and discuss strategies to increase member awareness and uptake of these programs.

HIGHMARK NON-MEDICARE VIRTUAL HEALTH PROGRAM – MICHELLE GAST, WTW

Michelle Gast presented proposed enhancements to Highmark's Well360 Virtual Health program which provides telemedicine services for Highmark non-Medicare plan members. The proposed enhancements offered by Highmark include the addition of virtual primary care, a variety of women's health services, and dermatology. Michelle Gast discussed pricing for these enhancements and estimated cost savings to the member and the plan if these enhancements are approved and added to the program.

Multiple questions were asked by Subcommittee members on Highmark's ability to market these enhancements, what the expected implementation timeline would be and how clinically sound these virtual services are in comparison to in-person services. WTW will follow up with Highmark on these questions and provide responses at the October meeting. Subcommittee members were interested in these enhancements and will make a recommendation at the October meeting following additional discussion.

Treasurer Davis arrived to the meeting.

GENE AND CELLULAR THERAPY LANDSCAPE – JACLYN IGLESIAS, WTW

Jaclyn Iglesias reviewed the program offerings by current GHIP vendor partners for Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) medications and provided additional information on stop loss insurance and alternative payment models based on Subcommittee member feedback from the July 2024 Subcommittee meeting. Subcommittee members were asked to provide their recommendations to the SEBC on further evaluation of cost-management options for CGTs. Brian Stitzel commented that the cost of stop loss insurance will cost the GHIP more over time and the GHIP has a reserve component that will protect the fund from claim volatility.

Subcommittee members recommended not to elevate any further discussion on this topic to the SEBC as the cost for stop insurance would outweigh any potential benefit.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public provided comments on agenda items presented at today’s meeting related to House Resolution 32.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Robert Scoglietti and seconded by Courtney Stewart to adjourn the public session at 2:28 p.m.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Mick, Executive Secretary, Statewide Benefits Office, Department of Human Resources
Recorder, State Employee Benefits Committee, and Subcommittees