

## Meeting Minutes | Health Care Policy Committee

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 | 10:30 a.m.  
202 Arbor Lake Dr., Columbia, SC 29223 | First Floor Conference Room

Minutes approved July 24, 2019

**Board Members Present:** Ms. Jennifer Blumenthal, Mr. Audie Penn, and Mr. Alex Shissias

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Joe “Rocky” Pearce, Chairman

**Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Phyllis Buie, Amber Carter, Sarah Corbett, Georgia Gillens, Bobby George, Joe Greene, Patrick Harvin, Denise Hunter, Jessica Moak, Heather Muller, Laura Smoak, Rob Tester, Travis Turner, Stephen Van Camp, Justin Werner, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Sam Griswold and Wayne Pruitt from the State Retirees Association of South Carolina; Jennifer Dowell, Brooks Goodman, Dr. Tripp Jennings, Matt Shaffer, and Carmen Wilson from BlueCrossBlueShield of South Carolina; Gia Elesvier, Karen Russell and Robin Scott from Express Scripts, Inc.; Angela Sutton Furniss with Dexcom, Inc.; Bob Broach from Celgene; Karen Keating from Takeda; Regina Williams from Benevisor; Michael Craig from UCB; Mike Larawy, and Kevin Mann from Novo Nordisk, Inc.; Gordon Sherard from ASIFlex; and Jimmy Yi from Sanofi Genzyme.

### I. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Alex Shissias called the PEBA Health Care Policy Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., and stated that the public meeting notice was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

It was noted that Chairman Rocky Pearce is ill and cannot attend the meeting. Therefore, a quorum of the Committee is not present, and no action can be taken at the meeting. The meeting will continue for the purpose of receiving information only.

### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2018

It was noted that the approval of the December 5, 2018, Committee meeting minutes will be carried over until the next meeting.

### III. Review of Results from Pharmacy Initiatives

Mr. Rob Tester, Health Care Policy Director, introduced Ms. Karen Russell, Clinical Executive, and Ms. Gia Elsevier, Account Executive, from Express Scripts, Inc., to discuss the results of several programs in the past two years to address rising prescription drug cost. Initiatives include: adopting the National Preferred Formulary; adding new Prior Authorization and Step Rules; adding a Smart 90 Voluntary Maintenance Network; adding a Specialty Accredited Narrow Network; adopting Specialty Safeguard Programs; and adding an Advanced Opioid Management Program.

#### **IV. Update on Weight Management**

Mr. Rob Tester introduced Dr. Tripp Jennings, Clinical Innovation Officer, and Carmen Wilson, Account Executive, from BlueCrossBlueShield of South Carolina, to update the Committee on various strategies to address obesity and weight management.

Dr. Jennings reviewed large scale policy changes regarding cigarette smoking starting in 1964 with the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health. Dr. Jennings stated that even though cigarette smoking is down, there are approximately 34 million American adults that still smoke.

Dr. Jennings pointed out that large scale change is also needed to impact obesity, which affects 39.8 percent of the U.S. population. Obesity-related conditions include heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and certain types of cancer. The estimated annual medical cost of obesity in the United States was \$147 billion in 2008; and the medical cost for people who have obesity was \$1,429 higher than those of normal weight.

Ms. Wilson turned the discussion to strategies to prevent obesity; large scale efforts in South Carolina; and policy and environmental changes to build a healthier State.

Dr. Jennings and Ms. Wilson also highlighted current State Health Plan initiatives to address obesity including: holistic health coaching; Naturally Slim; outcomes based disease management; diabetes prevention programs; and a new weight management project plan.

#### **V. YES2Health! Wellness Initiatives at PEBA**

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, introduced Mr. Bobby George, PEBA's Training and Development Director, to discuss current wellness initiatives at PEBA. Mr. George outlined PEBA's Yes2Health! wellness program including the PEBA gym which includes hand weights and stretch bands; yoga classes; fitness challenges; running and walking groups; and the Biggest Loser contest. Mr. George also discussed wellness education events at PEBA including lunch and learn events related to women and men's health; nutrition and food demonstrations; financial health; and stress management.

Mr. George concluded his presentation by reviewing PEBA's annual worksite screenings, and other healthy initiatives including the weekly onsite farmer's market; PEBA's Wellness Wall; and the Naturally Slim program.

#### **VI. Old Business/Director's Report**

Ms. Boykin provided the Director's Report and advised that the House Ways and Means Committee has completed their deliberations of the budget, which will move to the House floor next week. Ms. Boykin reported that the State Health Plan is fully funded (\$49.7 million) in this version of the budget; however, the additional \$8.6 million requested was not given for the expansion of annual adult well visits at no cost to the member.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, and upon motion by Mr. Penn, which was seconded by Mr. Shissias, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.