

Meeting Minutes | Health Care Policy Committee

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 | 10:30 a.m.
202 Arbor Lake Dr., Columbia, SC 29223 | First Floor Conference Room

Minutes approved December 4, 2019

Board Members Present: Mr. Calvin Elam, Mr. Joe “Rocky” Pearce, Chairman, and Mr. Alex Shissias

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: Peggy Boykin, Phyllis Buie, Amber Carter, Sarah Corbett, Joe Greene, Patrick Harvin, Denise Hunter, Jessica Moak, Mike McDermott, Heather Muller, Laura Smoak, Rob Tester, Stephen Van Camp, Justin Werner, Chuck Wilson, 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; Rene’ Frick, Brooks Goodman, Tripp Jennings, Matt Shaffer, J.T. Thompson, and Carmen Wilson from BlueCrossBlueShield of South Carolina; Karen Russell and Robin Scott from Express Scripts, Inc.; Dr. David Louder from MUSC Health; Bob Broach from Celgene; Karen Keating from Takeda; Michael Craig from UCB; Mike Larawy from Novo Nordisk, Inc.; Jason Richardson from Allergan; Gordon Sherard from ASIFlex; and Alex Tomlinson from Milliken Law Firm.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rocky Pearce 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.

Chairman Pearce welcomed Mr. Calvin Elam as the Board’s newest member, and asked him introduce himself to the Committee.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2018 and March 6, 2019

Mr. Alex Shissias made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Elam, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2018, and March 6, 2019, Committee meetings.

III. 2020 State Health Plan Approval of Benefits and Contributions

Mr. Rob Tester, Health Care Policy Director, advised that State Health Plan (SHP) employee and employer contribution rates for Plan Year 2020 will remain the same as in Plan Year 2019. In addition, copayments for participants of the SHP will also remain the same.

Mr. Tester noted three SHP program changes that will begin effective January 1, 2020. Express Scripts (PEBA’s pharmacy benefits contractor) is offering a special insulin copay in which SHP members will pay no more than \$25.00 for a 30-day supply of insulin. Mr. Tester advised that this program is funded by Express Script’s agreement with participating insulin manufacturers with no additional cost to the SHP.

Habilitation services will also be offered effective January 1, 2020. Mr. Tester defined habilitation services as health services that help a person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living.

SaveonSP (Specialty Pharmacy) will be offered only for the MUSC Health Plan, effective January 1, 2020. Mr. Tester stated that Express Scripts' affiliate company SaveonSP, has developed a process to capture pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance payments to achieve plan savings. Savings to the MUSC Health Plan based on modeling of 2018 experience are estimated at \$1.7 million a year. (Subsequent information led PEBA to discontinue this initiative- notification sent to Board members on October 7, 2019).

Mr. Alex Shissias made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Elam, and passed unanimously, to recommend that the PEBA Board approve the 2020 State Health Plan as described by the document entitled State Health Plan Approval of Benefits and Contributions for 2020.

IV. MUSC Update

In this annual review of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health Plan, Mr. Tester discussed the latest financial performance, while Dr. Dave Louder, Executive Director of the MUSC Health Alliance, presented the Plan's quality metrics, and discussed the overall status of the MUSC plan.

V. Old Business/Director's Report

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, stated that last year's appropriations bill includes \$49.7 million for full funding of the State Health Plan; \$32.4 million to cover the general fund share of the one percent of the increase in employer contribution rates; and \$2.9 million to add additional stabilization for the Judges and Solicitors Retirement System (JSRS).

Ms. Boykin stated that the Benefits at Work Conference will be August 26-28, 2019, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. This conference is dedicated to informing employers on open enrollment and benefit changes for 2020.

At the end of the Director's Report, a video was shown regarding a Naturally Slim celebration event on May 30, 2019, where hundreds of participants gathered to celebrate their success with the Naturally Slim program. Naturally Slim is an online program that promotes the concept of building skills that include mindful eating, physical activity, nutrition, and mental health.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion by Mr. Shissias, which was seconded by Mr. Elam, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.