

New Jersey State Health Benefits Commission
Open Session Minutes
January 11, 2023

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided through the annual notice of the schedule of regular meetings of the Commission filed with and prominently posted in the offices of the Secretary of State. The 2023 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 20, 2022, and Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 20, 2022. The annual meeting schedule was posted on the Division website on December 1, 2022.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 10:00 am, taking place at the State Health Benefits Commission, 3 John Fitch Way, Trenton, New Jersey, 08695.

The text of Resolution A (Closed Session) and Resolution B (Executive Session) were read in their entirety in the event that the Commission desires, at any point in the meeting, to approve a motion to go into Closed or Executive session.

Kelly Fields took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Board Members:

Danielle Schimmel, Chair, State of New Jersey Department of Pensions and Benefits

Allison Chris Meyers, Chair/CEO, State of New Jersey Civil Service Commission

Jennifer Higgins, NJ AFL-CIO

Philip Gennace, State of New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance

Dudley Burdge, NJ AFL-CIO

Kelly Fields, Secretary

Also Present:

Donna Ruotola, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Alison Keating, Office of Attorney General

Jeffrey Ziemba, Applicant

John Baughman, Applicant

Samuel Halpern, ESQ.- Attorney for the Applicant, John Baughman

Chairperson Schimmel made a motion to go into Closed Session to hear the Closed Session appeals that contain protected health information. Jennifer Higgins seconded. All voted in favor.

The following cases, due to HIPAA regulations, were heard in Closed Session:

Case #2023011101: This appeal is for the overage handicap for the member's son. The son was in an inpatient facility and not complying with the father regarding the application. The member's son was terminated due to the application being submitted past the deadline. Documentation was provided to support the son being in an inpatient facility at the time the application was due.

Board member Dudley Burdge made a motion to move to Executive Session. Ms. Higgins seconded, all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Ms. Higgins approved to move the request, board member Burdge seconded the motion, all voted in favor. The application will be submitted to Horizon for review, if approved, coverage will be retroactive back to the date of termination. A new application will be sent to the member.

Case #2023011102: The member stated that an operation was done at a Tier 1 facility. The member contacted Princeton Orthopedic Billing for a break-down of the costs of the operation, the member stated they were told it would be around \$1,000 out of pocket. The member then stated their bill was much higher than \$1,000. Ms. Ruotola stated that the member used a facility that is Tier 2, leaving the member responsible for a \$1,500 deductible + a coinsurance rate of 20%. The surgeon charges were paid as Tier 1, facility charges as Tier 2. Horizon advised of a phone call between that took place with the member explaining these charges.

Board member Burdge made a motion to deny the appeal. Mr. Gennace seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Case #2023011103: This appeal was regarding a retired firefighter and his medical benefits. The member stated that they were eligible for subsidized medical benefits, where the member then retired. Upon retiring, the member did not get those benefits. The attorney representing the member stated if there is no immediate decision, they intend on asking for a hearing from the Board, the Administrative Law Judge and seek further remedies. Kelly Fields provided records of the members' contract. Ms. Fields stated that Laurie fanning told the member that it was an error being told that they were eligible for retirement, as the member had not put the 23 required years of service with Ridgewood in order to qualify for their Chapter 48.

Danielle Schimmel made a motion to table this matter to allow the member and Counsel time to seek out the Collective Bargain Agreement from 1998. Jennifer Higgins seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Board member Dudley Burdge made a motion to move to Open Session. Ms. Meyers seconded. All voted in favor. The Commission moved to Open Session.

Case #2023011104: Ms. Higgins asked if anybody needed a discussion on this workers compensation case or if the Commission was prepared to make a motion.

Chairperson Schimmel made a motion to assess the recommendation and authorize the settlement authority as requested in the memo. Mr. Burdge seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Case #2023011105: Ms. Higgins asked if anybody needed a discussion on this workers compensation case.

Chairperson Schimmel made a motion to authorize the settlement authority. Ms. Meyers seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Procurement Issues:

Ms. Meyers touched based on several contracts that are up for rebate this year within dental and health, the division is working on the RFPs. Ms. Meyers asked the chair to make a motion for the delegation of the contracting authority party, specifically for the dental and the commercial

health. Secretary Fields stated that the Division wants to make sure DPP will handle the procurement process itself. Mr. Burdge made a motion to go to Executive Session. Ms. Higgins seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Secretary Fields made a motion to delegate procurement authority for dental services to the division of personal property. Mr. Burdge seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Secretary Fields made a motion to delegate chairman authority for commercial medical services to the division of person's property. Mr. Burdge seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Aetna Medicare Advantage Discussion:

Chairperson Schimmel stated the Aetna Medicare Advantage contract has been extended for 2 years, the division will work on and have an RPA prior to the expiration of that contract.

Mr. Gennace made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Burdge seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Fields".

Kelly Fields
Acting Secretary
State Health Benefits Commission