

NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust Board Meeting

Minutes: Number 140, October 17, 2024

Opening of Meeting: 3:00 PM

In attendance: Chair Jim Fregelette, Vice Chair Donna Walters, Trustees Eileen Fleming, Zachary Izard, Frances DiFrancesco, Luke Silliman, Candace Reimer, Christa McHale, John Pope, Laurie Widman, David Scalzo, Robert Giannicchi and Michelle Okal-Frink.

Also attending: Fiscal Agent, Lora Schasel, Benefits Specialist, Stacey Porter, Trust Secretary, Abby Maher, Darcie Falsioni, Esq., Representatives from Oswald Companies, Steve Baltas, Gretchen Heil, John Kertis, Medhat Kaldas and Molly Berry.

Not in attendance: Barbara Smith

1. Public Comments and Questions:

None

A. Presentations/ Informational Items

1. Fiscal Update

Lora Schasel reported on the financial period beginning 9/01/2024 through 9/30/2024. Lora indicates that Trust total assets for September were \$67.8M and total equity was \$56.1M.

Lora reports that the Trust has received a new IBNR and Reserves Report from our actuaries last month. The IBNR remains static throughout the fiscal year, until the next Reserve Report is completed by our Actuaries. The updated IBNR of \$14,577,996 includes medical claims liability of \$12,759,580 and prescription drug benefits of \$1,818,416.

The Trust received \$2.5M in Rx Rebates on 9/27/24, bringing our total rebates received this plan year to \$4.9M. As far as enrollment, since the beginning of the plan year, we have gained 70 enrollees. Net assets on 9/30 were \$48.6M. The bank and investment accounts currently total \$71.2M

July had higher than average medical, and Rx claims, due in part to additional funding requirements by IH and/or MVP. We received rebate revenue in July and September totaling 4.9M, but even so, we are currently running at a \$1.6M deficit through the end of September. October will again have higher than typical medical, and Rx claims.

The Dental through September 2024 is running at a deficit of \$8K due to higher-than-normal claims in August and September which is typical due to dependents being home from school and college. The average monthly dental claims expense for the previous plan year was \$122K. Next month's claims will be \$98K so we will have lower than average claims and be running a surplus of approximately \$18K through the end of October.

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The auditors are currently working on the 2023 – 24 audit and hope to have it finalized early next week. After the audit has been completed, the auditors will complete their portion of the yearly Superintendent's Report, and then Lora will send it to the Department of Financial Services.

Administrative Report

1. Update on Brook+ and Healthcare Bluebook

Stacey Porter reported Healthcare Bluebook totaled 71 rewards for July, and 74 for August, bringing us to 693 total rewards. Total rewards for the last twelve months totaled \$47,665.00.

Stacey reports Brook+ has four milestones for members to complete. Members register and commit to the program, then engage for two weeks (at which point they will earn a Fitbit). The third milestone will be engagement for an additional two weeks. The last milestone will be engagement for more than ten weeks and 5 percent weight loss.

Stacey shares the total weight lost for IH members is 3,183 pounds and an average of 4.8% for the 584 IH members enrolled in Brook+ program. The total weight lost for MVP members is 371 pounds, an average of 5.9% for the 100 MVP members enrolled in Brook+ program.

2. Update on 2025 Annual Dinner Meeting

The 2025 annual dinner will be held on April 10th at the Foundry (Elmwood Ave, Buffalo) sponsored by Independent Health.

3. Subrogation Report

Stacey reports we accepted \$41,031.75 in full satisfaction of the \$54,752.96 subrogation/reimbursement claim.

B. Consultant Report

1. Subcommittee Updates

a. Financial Committee

Medhat Kaldas, Oswald Companies, reported on the Medical and RX plan, noting that the PEPM cost for August was \$1,884. For the last 12 months, the average PEPM cost has been \$1,695, which is 6.1% higher than this time last year. The figure is ahead of the trend for the area, which sits at 8-9%.

Medhat reports August utilization totaled \$11.3M, up 11.7% from the annual average and down 16.1% from the prior month. Enrollment was at 6,007 for August 2024, up 92 members from the average since August 2024. The largest claims come from ten people which total about 5.2% of all claims. None of the members have reached the stop loss point yet.

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b. Communications Committee

John Kertis, Oswald Companies, reported on the website analytics. Users by device has remained steady with the desktop being the most used device. The page views for the NY44 Health Trust have gone down since the second quarter of this year, but John anticipates the Fall Newsletter will bring more views, which will be mailed out at the end of October. The Medical website page remains the most visited, with the enrollee website page to follow second.

The Communications committee open forum held on September 23rd is available on the website via recording. John reports the Communications Subcommittee is looking for feedback from the members to improve the website. There is also a website survey on the trust website, asking users about the frequency they visit, the ease of use and accessibility of websites.

John reports we will be sending out the Fall Newsletter on October 25th, which will include Brook+ star member story, and important information regarding the eligibility and enrollment for Medicare. Medicare open enrollment started on October 15th, so this information will be helpful to users. In December, we will end the year engagements with a Year End newsletter.

c. Population Health Committee

Molly Berry reported the monthly wellness tips for October are:

World Mental Health Day- October 10th

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Mindful Practices

Molly reminds our members to reach out to receive your School District's Healthcare Performance Report(s) which includes:

- Summary report of relevant population health data
- Demographics
- Top chronic conditions
- Top prescription drug utilization
- Place of service information (e.g., ER, inpatient services)

To get your individual report, send an email to NY44@oswaldcompanies.com to request the report. Please include your contact information in your message.

Molly reminds members that they can find wellness resources including recipes, exercises, mindfulness videos, nutrition logs, etc. on the website through the Wellness+ On-Demand Resource Center.

d. Innovation Committee

Gretchen Heil, Oswald Companies, reported a Spring Health update. Independent Health was able to confirm that if the Trust moves forward with implementing Spring Health, there would be no

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implementation charges/cost for Independent Health. MVP will assess implementation charges/cost to the Trust to bolt on Spring Health.

The Innovation Subcommittee met on October 2nd and reviewed a Wellness program called Solera. Solera is a digital platform connecting members and employees to health solutions such as diabetes prevention, weight management, mental health & stress, women's health, fall prevention and personal care services.

Next meeting is November 6th to further discuss Solera, and to review current Brook+ utilization data and weight management program offerings (weightwatchers, noom, brook, and wondr health). Solera does have a program that assists with balancing cost and coverage for GLP-1s as they remain a priority. This step solution program appears to be like the Rx Activate program available through Capital Rx.

Oswald has also requested Capital Rx for a direct mail order contract with Wegmans. More to come after the next Innovation subcommittee meeting.

e. Benefits Committee

Steve Baltas, Oswald Companies, reports that the committee most recently met on October 3rd. They continue to work with other subcommittees to review vendor arrangements and weight management costs and coverages, including available weight loss programs. The committee meets next on November 7th.

C. General Trust Business

None

D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting Number 139, August 22, 2024

The motion to approve the minutes from Meeting Number 139 held on 8/22/24, was made by Bob Giannicchi, seconded by Luke Silliman, and carried unanimously. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

E. Old Business

None

F. New Business

None

Adjournment

1. Next Board of Trustees' Meeting will be on January 16, 2025, at 3:00 PM

The motion to adjourn at 3:35 PM was made by Luke Silliman and seconded by Michelle Okal-Frink, and unanimously approved. **CARRIED (by both Management and Labor Units)**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail Maher
Secretary to the Board of Trustees