

MINUTES
Eastern Connecticut Health and Medical Cooperative
Board Meeting – Dec. 14, 2023
2:00 - 3:30 pm

Members Present (in-person): Prem Aithal, Jeff Wihbey, Kate Ericson, Mike Belden, Ian Neviaser, Holly McCalla, Julie Pendleton, Kristina Martineau, John Hall, William Merrill (arrived 2:02pm).

Members Present (via zoom): Troy Hopkins

Others present (in-person): Thomas Kowalchik (USI), Lynn Iannuzzi-DiBene, Pamela Listorti (Old Saybrook).

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

Standing Agenda Items: Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approve minutes of November 16, 2023:

Motion to approve November 16, 2023, meeting minutes made by Julie Pendleton, seconded by Holly McCalla.

Approved: 10-0 (Bill M. arrived after vote).

2. Financial Status Report

a. November net position of \$4.78M down \$856K for the month due to excess of claims over revenues. November had five (5) weeks of claims vs the normal four (4) weeks of claims. YTD claims over revenues = \$711K. Contributing to this large increase in claims were 3 large claimants. (See financial reports for further details).

b. Large claims (over \$50K = 32 vs large claims last year of 10 as of the end of November. The ECHMC number of employees has grown from 742 last year to 1,167 this year due to the addition of Town of Westbrook, Westbrook Board of Education and RSD # 17.

3. Marketing – new members:

a. Ian N. stated he received a request from Highville Charter School (K-12 district) with approximately 50-60 potential participants. Also, the Town and School Boards of Cheshire are also interested in learning more about the ECHMC. The deadline to request interest in becoming a member of the ECHMC for 7/1/24 is March 1, 2024.

4. Update from Vendors/Anthem Update

a. Tom K. provided an Executive Summary report comparing 11/1/2021 – 10/31/22 vs 11/1/22 – 10/31/23. Significant items discussed were the increase in specific costly prescription drug usage. Total medical claims paid increased 24.2% and total pharmacy claims have increased 43.2%. A large reason for this increase is due to the increase in membership from 741 to 1,170 members, effective 7/1/23.

b. Tom is continuing to work on the prescription drug plan options and will have preliminary findings for the January meeting.

- c. Tom discussed the preliminary rate discussions and emphasized these results are one month in arrears. After reviewing all the data in detail, preliminary results show a projected percentage increase based on a rolling twelve-month cycle. Each member of the ECHMC can use this preliminary rate to assist with their own budget for the FY 24-25. The discussion clarified that each member has the autonomy to set their own budgeted rate increases for Health Insurance. The ECHMC will vote on new allocation rates later in the fiscal year for the next fiscal year.
- d. Life Insurance Coverage – Tom mentioned that all groups should submit their latest census data (if they have not already) with life insurance contractual obligation amounts for each group. Tom will market Life Insurance Benefit to a variety of vendors. USI can then review options with other carriers besides The Hartford.

5. Old Business:

a. No Old Business

6. New Business

- a. **Agenda setting and format for January 25, 2024, meeting.**
 - 1. Term Life Insurance – Census data to USI for each group, possibly seek alternative carriers.
 - 2. Prescription Drug RFP
 - 3. A Committee to be established to look at Allocation Rate adjustment possibilities for Long Term members. Bill M., Mike B., Kate E., Ian N and Tom K will serve on this committee.

The dates for FY 24-25 meeting dates were shown and discussed. The June 2024 meeting date will remain on the calendar.

A motion was made by Mike B. to accept the FY 24-25 meeting dates as presented. Seconded by Kate E. and unanimously approved (11-0).

New Items for January 2024 Meeting agenda

Allocation Rate discussion

Welcome Pam S. as new member.

Ian N. thanked Julie Pendleton for her founding member involvement in the ECHMC as she will be retiring from Old Saybrook after many years of dedicated service.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Jan P., seconded by Kate E., all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:56pm. – Approved 11-0

Next Meeting – January 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

Zoom information will be provided in a calendar invite if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Belden

