Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust

88 King Street, Northampton, MA 01060

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TO: All Trust Member Units

RE: Minutes of October 7, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Held Remotely via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT	GUESTS PRESENT
Shelley Poreda — Chair Emily Russo — Vice Chair Joanne Cleveland Andrew Levine Paul McLatchy III Stacy Stewart Donna Whiteley	Danielle Chaplick Kevin Feeley Cindy Graves Susan Shillue

CALL TO ORDER

Certain meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with adequate, alternative means of public access and, where required, public participation provided, in accordance with House Bill Number 62 of the 194th General Court, which extended the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20, until June 30, 2027.

Chair Shelley Poreda called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with a quorum present.

CY27 MEDICARE RENEWAL

Danielle Chaplick reviewed the market trends driving Medicare costs, including an aging population, costly new treatments, specialty and GLP-1 drugs, and rising provider costs, along with 2027 federal Medicare changes such as the projected Part B premium increase and the CMS GLP-1 Bridge pilot, which is administered by CMS outside the Trust's plan.

Sue Shillue reported that the Medex plan ran at a 99% loss ratio for FY26 and 95% for the first two months of FY27. The underwriting projects a 10.9% increase in medical claims; combined with a 0.4% increase in the fully insured Blue MedicareRx PDP and a 2.0% increase in the BCBS administrative fee, the recommended CY2027 rate is $519.72 per member per month, a 5.0% increase over the current $495.00. A copay increase alternative (3.7%) was also presented; members did not support further copay changes, noting copays were increased with last year's renewal.

Danielle reviewed the results of the Medicare RFQ. UnitedHealthcare, Humana and Mass General Brigham Health Plan declined; Harvard Pilgrim quoted self-funded medical only and Aetna quoted fully insured Medicare Advantage plans. With no standalone drug plan quoted, the only complete options were the BCBS renewal and the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan with Part D, which would cost approximately $2.9 million less annually. Hilb did not recommend the

Aetna plan, citing the change from a Medicare supplement to Medicare Advantage, prior authorization and formulary changes, the required transition of all retirees, a one-year rate guarantee, and the Trust's position at the minimum network threshold.

Hilb recommended renewing with BCBS at a 5% increase with no copay changes. Paul McLatchy III asked that the alternatives also be presented to the membership, and proposed 6% given the 99% loss ratio.

> **MOTION:** On a motion by Andrew Levine, seconded by Donna Whiteley, as amended, the Executive Committee voted to recommend to the Insurance Advisory Committee that the Trust renew its Medicare program with Blue Cross Blue Shield (Medex 2 self-funded with the Blue Medicare Rx PDP) at a 6% rate increase over the current year, with no change to prescription copays.
>
> **Result:** Cleveland – Yes; Levine – Yes; McLatchy – Yes; Russo – Yes; Stewart – Yes; Whiteley – Yes; Poreda – Yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

> **MOTION:** On a motion by Andrew Levine, seconded by Donna Whiteley, the Executive Committee voted to enter executive session at 10:52 a.m. pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to return to open session thereafter.
>
> **Result:** Cleveland – Yes; Levine – Yes; McLatchy – Yes; Russo – Yes; Stewart – Yes; Whiteley – Yes; Poreda – Yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Paul McLatchy III left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. during the executive session. The Committee returned to open session at 11:07 a.m.

JPA COUNSEL — KEVIN FEELEY OF FEELEY & BROWN

Upon returning to open session, the Chair reported that the Committee had met in executive session to discuss the hiring of legal counsel. Andrew Levine noted that he had worked with Attorney Feeley in another municipality and spoke to his reputation and accessibility.

> **MOTION:** On a motion by Andrew Levine, seconded by Emily Russo, the Executive Committee voted to appoint Kevin Feeley of Feeley & Brown as legal counsel for the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, effective immediately.
>
> **Result:** Cleveland – Yes; Levine – Yes; Russo – Yes; Stewart – Yes; Whiteley – Yes; Poreda – Yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Chair directed Hilb to finalize the engagement with Attorney Feeley, noting that a formal contract is not required and that counsel will bill the Trust for time used, and to seek counsel's guidance on a pending matter.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

> **MOTION:** On a motion by Emily Russo, seconded by Stacy Stewart, the minutes of the September 2, 2026 Executive Committee meeting were approved as presented.
>
> **Result:** Cleveland – Yes; Levine – Yes; Russo – Yes; Stewart – Yes; Whiteley – Yes; Poreda – Yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT / WARRANT APPROVAL

The Chair reviewed the July and August year-to-date financial statements against budget. Health insurance premium revenue was $16,029,154 against a budget of $16,265,200 (98.6%), primarily due to August enrollment changes, particularly among school staff, that were not reflected in the budget. Health insurance claims were $10,007,719 against a budget of $11,388,333 (87.9%). Health insurance settlements were higher than budgeted ($661,583 against $505,065), while Rx claims were lower ($3,034,083 against $3,646,667). The year-to-date net ordinary loss was $879,202 against a budgeted loss of $1,370,684. The Chair noted that losses in these months reflect the timing of quarterly pharmacy rebates, which are not yet included. The rebate received in September, approximately $2.67 million, came in above budget. Receivables as of August 31, 2026 totaled $546,329 and have been fully collected. The total cash balance was $10,345,203 at the end of August.

> **MOTION:** On a motion by Andrew Levine, seconded by Stacy Stewart, the Executive Committee voted to approve the August 2026 warrants totaling $8,295,243.67.
>
> **Result:** Cleveland – Yes; Levine – Yes; Russo – Yes; Stewart – Yes; Whiteley – Yes; Poreda – Yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

WITHDRAWING UNIT BALANCES / UNIT DEPOSIT QUERIES

The Committee reviewed the deposit balance schedule for the 12 member units that withdrew effective July 1, 2026. FRCOG and the Town of Southampton have outstanding balances, and several withdrawn units have requested member-level claims detail, which Hilb is pursuing with BCBS. Cindy reported that Bernardston and Greater Commonwealth Virtual School have paid their balances since the schedule was prepared, and will provide an updated schedule for the IAC packet.

BENADMIN SYSTEM UPDATE

Danielle reported strong vendor interest in the benefits administration system RFP; vendor questions were due earlier in the week. PPI requested a one-week extension without stating a reason; any extension would need to apply to all respondents. The Chair stated that the deadline stated in the RFP should stand absent an extenuating circumstance.

OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed coverage terminations and the handling of a potential high-cost accident claim involving possible third-party liability, which Hilb will review with BCBS. The Committee

also discussed the upcoming Executive Committee elections, and Hilb will seek Attorney Feeley's guidance on the election process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Stacy Stewart, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Prepared By:

Marianna Gil, Hilb Group