**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY GROUP INSURANCE TRUST**

**88 KING STREET**

**NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060**

TO: All Member Trust Units

RE: **Minutes of January 31, 2024**

Insurance Advisory Committee

Via Zoom Teleconference

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Julie Wonkka Emily Russo Jessalyn Zykoski

Catherine Levreault Russ Kaubris Michele Turner

Joanne Misiaszek Linda Gross Amber Robidoux

Cara Leach Ashley Manley Sues’Anne Jason

Sarah Reynolds Shelley Poreda Angelina Bragdon

Lynn Dyer Deborah Kuhn Jeff Cyr

Don Humason Allan Kidston Donna Whitely

Meg McWherter Chris Martin Jennifer Day

Rachel Emerson Maureen Humphrey Irene Houle

Virginia Gabert Joan Zuzgo Nadine Cignoni

Paula Harrison Patti Rutkowski Mildred Colon

Wendy Bogusz Rachel Emerson Carolyn Manley

Jan Warner Sharon Ashleigh Amy Shrader

Allan Kidston Ryan Mailloux

Sarah Kimball Eileen Seymour

Rich Carmignani Jr. Gabriele Voelker

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Shea Cynthia Graves Jessica Hebert

Michele Komosa Mary Houle Kristine Mathis

Patrick McIntyre Gloria Congram Wendy Bogusz

Rosie Serrano Lori Hall Ivan Adams

Nadine Coughlin Alyssa Magoffin Kristin Cormier

**CALL TO ORDER**

In compliance with the Governor’s orders suspending certain provisions of the open meeting laws due to Covid-19, this meeting was held via Zoom telephone/video conference.

Chairman Rich Carmignani Jr called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with a roll call that presented a quorum of 94.61% of the weighted vote.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Rich Carmignani Jr requested that the minutes of October 4, 2024 be approved, accepted by unanimous consent.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Financial Report for the month of December was presented reflecting a starting balance of $1,894,665.33 with a total monthly income received of $6,004,109.26 and monthly expenses of $4,571,608.65 with a total net monthly income of $1,432,500.61 and an ending month balance of $3,827,165.94 with accounts receivable of $873,419.61 leaving a total of $30,402,672.45.

*Investments and CD’s for December 2023*

The investments portfolio value was $10,620,960.07 with a market change of $432,208.35 and a $500,000.00 transfer out to the general fund, leaving a total of $10,553,168.42. The starting balance in CD’s was $10,239,591.59 with interest earned of $40,677.83 leaving a balance of $10,280,269.42.

*DECEMBER EXPENDITURES*

The expenditures for the month of December were reviewed.

Chairman Rich Carmignani Jr requested that the full financial report, including the expenditures be approved by unanimous consent, all were in favor.

**WELLNESS**

Wrapped up the Fall Challenge. On the Wellable Bulletin board, they will now be publishing links to A HEALTHY ME, Learn To Live and MY BLUE.

We hosted 4 onsite wellness seminars/cooking classes and have 2 more scheduled for February.

Michele advised we have received our first request for an onsite health fair.

Through A HEALTHY ME subscribers can participate in the January Challenge: **Balanced Diet Challenge**

January 15, 2024 - Registration enrollment begins.

January 29, 2024- Challenge begins.

February 25, 2024 - Challenge ends

Learn to Live offers monthly wellness webinars and I send a description and links out every month. We count on our unit contacts to disseminate these to subscribers.

Michele has been actively promoting MY BLUE. Subscribers do need to register.

* Track claims and benefits
* Find a Doctor, specialist or facility
* View your member ID card

**OPEN ENROLLMENT/HEALTH FAIRS**

Joe advised that we should be planning ahead regarding our Open Enrollment/Health Fairs, getting dates into the trust as soon as possible.

**STOP LOSS UPDATE**

Joe explained that we have been reimbursed $2.5 million from our reinsurance in FY23 with more funds expected. So far in FY24, we only have 1 person that has reached the stop loss limit.

**CANARX MAILING**

Joe explained that this is a voluntary program and is not highly utilized, we have 600 subscribers receiving pharmaceuticals that could be using CanaRx which in turn would save the members and the Trust money. He advised that a marketing campaign targeting these members will be done by CanaRx and to be aware of it in case a member has questions about the program’s validity.

**SPOUSE AUDIT/MARITAL AFFIDAVIT/BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

Joe explained members are responsible for notifying their employer/the Trust when they experience a status change such as a divorce or the remarriage of either divorced party. The lack of notification when either divorced party remarries is fraudulent. We currently have two cases like this that were brought to our attention which directly impact the Trust and its bottom line. In light of these cases, Joe suggested doing an audit of members with spouses on record enforcing they complete and sign a new Marital Status Affidavit (MSA). The MSA will be tweaked to include stronger language for acknowledgement and clearly defined consequences for failure to provide proper notification of a divorce/remarriage in the future. When the audit is performed, those who fail to respond will be cancelled. Joe stated we’ll need to add $5,000 to the budget for the audit expenses.

**RX RFP**

RX RFP is between our current vendor, CVS Caremark, and BCBS with a $1.4 million spread over 3-years between the two. CVS Caremark is able to provide better rebates and is planning to roll out Biosimilars which holds the potential for more savings for us in the future. Joe Shea explained our pharmaceutical costs account for 25% of our overall claim expenses. He then provided the pros and cons for going with each entity, recommending continuing with CVS Caremark for another 3 years beginning July 1, 2024.

**RATE INCREASE**

Joe stated there has been a $6 million loss to the Trust over the last calendar year in claims expenses. With 6 months of claim activity left in this fiscal year and claims expected to continue to trend upward, the buffer is depleting requiring a sizeable rate increase for July 1, 2024. Joe originally proposed an increase of around 10% for the HMO and PPO plans which was met with push back from the EC asking to keep the increase in the single digits. Joe stated the EC has recommended a 8% increase for the HMO and PPO plans.

On a motion by Joan Zuzgo, seconded by Russ Kaubris, it was voted to increase the rates 8% on all HMO and PPO plans, effective July 1, 2024. A roll call vote was taken, passing with 3 voting no.

**LAST MINUTE ITEMS**

Joe advised that our auditors will be coming into the office in the middle of February.

He also explained that there are extended Fitness Benefits available at no additional cost to the trust or the members. The Fitness Benefit remains at $150 **per plan regardless of how many dependents are on that plan** but has expanded to include reimbursement for more things relating to fitness.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:35

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Hebert

**Meeting Schedule**

March 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m., via ZOOM