

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)  
Board of Directors  
Teleconference Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2021

**Present:**

VEHI Board Members: Tracy Wrend – Board Chair – Joel Cook - Vice Chair, Peggy Maxfield, Lisa Grout, Zack McLaughlin and Geo Honigford

VEHI Management Team: Mark Hage, Chris Roberts, Bobby-Jo Salls and Jonathan Steiner

Guest: Chad Hewitt, CPA, Sullivan & Powers

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m., by Board Chair Tracy Wrend.

**Review and Adoption of Agenda:**

Peggy Maxfield made a motion, seconded by Lisa Grout, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of Board Minutes: August 24, 2021**

Lisa Grout made a motion, seconded by Zach McLaughlin to approve the meeting minutes of August 24, 2021 as presented. The motion passed.

**Review VEHI Audit with Sullivan and Powers**

After introductions, Chad Hewitt reviewed the FY 21 audit report, confirming Chris's information and presenting the board with an "unqualified opinion" and clean management letter, meaning no issues were found.

The Board thanked Chad and commended Chris Roberts. Joel Cook made a motion, seconded by Zach McLaughlin, to accept the financials and FY 21 audit report as presented. The motion passed.

### **Review and Approve Rate Filing for FY 23 – Health**

The VEHI Management Team presented their memo to the board dated October 20, 2021 requesting an additional contingency margin to strengthen reserves and cover any uncertainties in the filing calculations, such as the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, totaling an overall average increase of 5 percent. The increases range from 2.8 percent to 5.2 percent.

Lisa Grout moved to file the FY23 premium rates for the active school employees' health benefit plans with the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) at an overall increase of 5 percent, as determined by the VEHI management team in consultation with BCBSVT's chief actuary, to cover expected claims and other expenses associated with each health plan, to maintain VEHI reserves consistent with the board's Net Position Policy, and to ensure VEHI has adequate funds to cover unexpected costs related to the unfolding COVID pandemic. The motion was seconded by Zach McLaughlin. The motion passed.

The VEHI Management team provided an update on the VSTRS filing, also included in the October 20, 2021 memo.

Zach McLaughlin moved to file the rates for VSTRS plans. The rates to be filed will have no impact on the active plans nor any intended impact on net position. The motion was seconded by Peggy Maxfield. The motion passed.

Zach McLaughlin moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the rate filing documents and authorize Bobby-Jo Salls to file the health rates with DFR on behalf of VEHI. Lisa Grout seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Review and Approve Rate Filing for FY 23 – Dental**

Bobby-Jo Salls review the dental rating memo to the board, also dated October 20, 2021. The VEHI management team in consultation with their independent actuary have requested a minimum increase of 0% and a maximum increase of 4% depending on the experience of the group. This action expected to continue to buy down the dental program reserves.

Peggy Maxfield made the motion, and it was seconded by Lisa Grout, to file the FY 23 rates for active school employee benefit plans, as determined for VEHI by independent actuary John Stiefel, to cover expected claims and expenses associated with the VEHI Dental Program. FY23 rates per member group, as explained in the October 20, 2021 memo from the VEHI management team, will range from a low of 0 percent to a maximum of 4%, dependent upon

each group's prior year's experience. This rate change also anticipates the use of \$687,732 from the VEHI Dental Reserves. The motion passed.

Zach McLaughlin moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the rate filing documents and authorize Bobby-Jo Salls to file the dental rates with DFR on behalf of VEHI. Lisa Grout seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Discuss Future Agenda Items**

The VSBIT staff will determine the need for the next meeting based on the work plan.

### **Set Date for Next Board Meeting**

Jonathan Steiner reminded the board that the annual meeting will be held remotely on Friday November 5, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. The VSBIT staff will determine the need for the next meeting based on the work plan, and request dates of availability for the next board meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Bobby-Jo Salls