

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)
Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023

Present:

VEHI Board Members: Chair, Tracy Wrend, Vice Chair, Joel Cook, Lisa Grout (joined at 10:11, after technical difficulties), Suzanne Dirmaier, Mike Fisher and Geo Honigford

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m., by Tracy Wrend

Review of Agenda:

Mike Fisher moved to table item 10 regarding possible revisions to board election protocols to a future meeting. Joel Cook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tracy Wrend moved to add a discussion to determine if the board would like to continue to meet remotely, without a physical location through June of 2024. Mike Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Board Minutes: January 4, 2023

Lisa Grout made a motion, seconded by Geo Honigford, to approve the meeting minutes of January 3, 2023, as presented. Joel asked that the portion of the minutes regarding the Annual Review of the Conflict of Interest be corrected to remove the reference to the VSBA and VT-NEA appointees as it was not characterized as such. Joel made the motion to make that change, Geo seconded the motion. The motion to change and approved the minutes both passed unanimously.

Discuss the Board Meeting Procedure

Tracy Wrend advised the board that in January of 2023 the legislature extended the opportunity for public bodies to meet remotely without a physical location through June of 2024. Requirements are that the meetings are recorded, with notice and the public can participate by phone. Lisa Grout made the motion to continue to meet without a physical location through June of 2024, seconded by Suzanne Dirmaier. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Upcoming Contracts

Bobby-Jo Salls provided the list of the upcoming contracts, including VT-NEA for 7/1/23, BCBSVT for 7/1/23, and Gallagher for 7/1/23. Tracy provided the board with an opportunity to weigh in on any contracts; there was no further discussion.

VT-NEA Quarterly Report

Tracy provided an opportunity for Mark Hage to speak about his report or any comments from the board. Mike Fisher asked Mark if he could provide his information using the nine items from the scope of services in the service agreement as a template. Mark said he would take a look and let him know. Mike made a motion to accept the quarterly report from VT-NEA. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VEHI Q2 FY23 Financials – C. Roberts

Chris Roberts reviewed the second quarter of FY23 financials, including the Budget to Actual, the Combined Statement of Revenue and Expense and the Net Position Summary. Chris explained that through 12/31/2022 the VEHI health plan is showing a loss of net position of \$2.2 million. She explained that it was common for the end of the calendar year to pay more out as members had met their deductibles and out of pocket maximums. The VEHI dental program was showing a small loss of \$152 thousand for dental. The loss for dental is expected in an effort to spend down some of the dental reserves. Mike Fisher made the motion to accept the quarterly financials and it was seconded by Geo Honigford. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris explained to the board the VEHI long-time auditors, Sullivan and Powers, notified Chris in early 2023 that they would no longer be auditing VEHI or VSBIT. Chris Roberts and Jon Steiner found a new auditing firm, Johnson Lambert, who specializes in auditing pools, like VEHI and VSBIT. The cost will be going up with the new vendor, and part of the cost is for auditing the carriers (like Blue Cross VT and Northeast Delta) as well as the pools.

Management Updates

Bobby-Jo confirmed that the health and dental rates for July 1 were approved since the last board meeting. Bobby-Jo and Mark talked through the current conversations with Blue Cross VT, specifically around Payment Integrity program. Payment Integrity would provide an increase to work surrounding Fraud, Waste and Abuse and Claims Edits, and a portion of that to remain with Blue Cross VT. The VEHI management team agreed to this program in exchange for a reduced administrative increase. This agreement is also dependent upon contract language and reporting.

Bobby-Jo reported briefly that the VSTRS renewal should be more simplistic this year since there is no longer any subsidy. This is also removed from the monthly billing from VEHI.

Mark discussed the work that he does with VBA members, including a clarification from VBA that providers that participate with traditional Medicare are not required to accept Medicare

Advantage. Mark, Bobby-Jo and Jon continue to attend monthly meetings with VBA and Blue Cross VT.

Mark also provided an update regarding reference-based pricing, and that he was working to schedule a meeting with his RBP contacts, Bobby-Jo and Jon.

Consideration of Appointing a Committee to Review Conflict of Interest Policy

This item was requested by a board member to form a small committee of two to review the policy. Lisa made the motion to appoint a committee of two, of Suzanne Dirmaier and Mike Fisher. Geo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Future Agenda Items

Reference-based Pricing, Whistleblower Policy, Board Officer Protocol, Actuary for Net Position Policy, Payment Integrity Program, In-depth Review of Dental Plan, Evaluation of Health Plans.

Set Date for Next Board Meeting

A date was not set. Bobby-Jo Salls will send out a “Doodle Poll” to find dates in September once the date needed for the Actives renewal is known.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the board adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Bobby-Jo Salls