

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)
Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022

Present:

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

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

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m., by Board Chair Joel Cook.

Review and Adoption of Agenda:

Tracy Wrend asked that we add future place of meetings (virtual or in person) to the agenda.

Public Comment:

None

Introduce new VSBA appointed Board Member

The Board introduced and welcomed new Board Member Mike Fisher, appointee of VSBA.

Approval of Board Minutes: March 3, 2022

Wrend made a motion, seconded by Lisa Grout, to approve the meeting minutes of March 3, 2022, as presented. The motion passed.

Review and acceptance of Quarterly Financials March 2022

Chris reviewed the 3-31-2021 financials, noting the financials are strong in the first quarter of CY 2022, however, this quarter reflects the highest net position of the fiscal year due to the seasonality of the claims year. While she expects to finish the FY 22 with a contribution to reserve, it will be lower than the CY Q1 results show.

Mike Fisher made a motion, seconded by Peggy Maxfield, to accept the financials. The motion passed.

Audit Engagement

Chris R. explained the upcoming audit process requesting approval for the audit engagement with Sullivan and Powers.

Tracy W. made a motion, seconded by Lisa G. to affirm the engagement letter by Sullivan and Powers for the FY 23 audit. The motion passed. Chair Joel Cook will sign and return to Chris R.

VEHI Budget

Chris R. presented the FY 23 budget to the Board for consideration, highlighting the changes from FY 22. The budget items were discussed.

Mike F. made a motion, seconded by Lisa G., to accept the FY 23 budget as presented. The motion passed.

PATH Partnership with the Agency of Education – COVID Recovery

Bobby-Jo S. reported the request from the Agency of Education (AOE) to work together to offer a COVID recovery plan using the VEHI/PATH platform with funding from the federal tax dollars affiliated with COVID and the CARES act. Bobby-Jo, Jon and the wellness team will continue to explore potential options with the AOE.

Endorsement Recommendation for Life and Disability Carrier

Bobby-Jo S., Mark H., and Jon S. explained the request to change endorsements from Gallagher and Lincoln Financial to National Insurance Services (NIS) and Madison National Life. NIS was identified by a Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) as a potential new carrier for us. VLCT moved to them July 1, 2021, and were pleased with their service and rates.

NIS offered 20 percent savings from our current rates from Lincoln (and any other group that wants to move from their carrier) while matching the benefits and any collective bargaining agreement terms. They also offered a 2 percent payout to VEHI as a service fee or commission, the VEHI management team agreed that they would prefer to pass that additional 2 percent savings to the districts, bringing the discount to 22 percent.

Mike F. asked if this normally went through an RFP process the management team agreed that there are times that we use an RFP process, however this was brought to us, we also did a reference check with management and union officials that NIS works with. Also, this is not a mandatory benefit, therefore it is not a requirement to join.

Lisa G. made the motion, seconded by Tracy W. to accept the proposal of the management team, and transition the endorsement from Gallagher/Lincoln to NIS/Madison effective July 1, 2022. The motion passed.

Review and Acceptance of Quarterly Report of VT-NEA

Mark H. offered to answer any questions on his quarterly report that he provided in advance of the meeting. Mike F. asked if there were data points in the contract that were required to be reported on. Mark H. indicated that there have not, historically. His role is primarily member education and problem-solving, but he has not kept count of number of calls/emails.

Mark stated the retiree education events are VT-NEA events, not VEHI. However, he has worked with VPA and would be willing to work with VSA if they wanted assistance on providing that service to their members.

Peggy M. made a motion, and Lisa G. seconded the motion, to accept the VT-NEA quarterly report. The motion passed.

Montana Initiative

Mark H. went over the Montana initiative research that he has done on reference-based pricing and suggested next steps of meeting Marilyn Bartlett and with NASHP. Geo H. questioned if the VT-NEA contract covered research projects. Mark stated that his work as a trust administrator had always included finding ways to save VEHI money. Also, that he did a lot of reading and research after hours.

Bobby-Jo S. and Jon S. did not have an opportunity to provide information on their research thus far before the end of the scheduled meeting time, and asked for time at a future meeting. No action was taken.

Conflict of Interest Policy Review

This topic was not reached before the end of the scheduled meeting time.

Discuss Future Agenda Items

1. Contract review as needed (see schedule in Dropbox)
2. VSTRS renewal for Calendar Year 2023 schedule for June 27th

Set Date for Next Board Meeting

June 27th to review the VSTRS renewal for calendar year 2023.

Adjournment

Tracy W. made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike F., and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Bobby-Jo Salls