

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)  
Board of Directors  
Teleconference Meeting Minutes  
June 27, 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, Bobby-Jo Salls and Jonathan Steiner

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m., by Board Chair Joel Cook

**Review and Adoption of Agenda:**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of Board Minutes: May 24, 2022**

Tracy Wrend made a motion, seconded by Peggy Maxfield, to approve the meeting minutes of May 24, 2022, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**VSTRS Calendar Year 2023 BCBSVT Renewal**

Bobby-Jo Salls and Mark Hage explained the renewal proposal brought forward by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBSVT) for a June 30 filing date and the requirement of the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) to use the hospital budget numbers as filed on 7/1. Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System (VSTRS) hopes to have rates approved on or around 10/1. BCBSVT renewal rate projections include the assumed increase for hospital budgets in order to file 6/30 but expects that DFR will object to the line and ask for updated hospital numbers once the budgets are filed. BCBSVT will begin working on the renewal with the updated information when the budgets are filed.

The VSTRS board has asked for no adjustment to “pro forma” rates as presented by BCBSVT.

Tracy Wrend made the following motion: I move that the VEHI Board approve the June 30<sup>th</sup>, pro-forma premium rates for the under-65 population and for the VSTRS-65 population of

subscribers of overall 15.9 percent increase recommended by BCBSVT actuaries for calendar year 2023 and endorsed by the trustees of VSTRS. Additionally, if the Department of Financial Regulation directs a reconsideration of VSTRS's filed rates after the filing of 2023 hospital budgets, and that necessitates an increase to VSTRS rates above the initial pro-forma levels, the board authorizes the VEHI management team to finalize any rate increase (not to exceed five additional percent) for both populations of retirees in consultation with VSTRS.

Tracy Wrend made a motion, seconded by Lisa Grout, to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tracy Wrend raised the issue of the pre-Medicare plan designs being different than the actives, with very high cost and no margin, leaving VEHI holding the risk as a self-insured pool. Lisa Grout stated that the high cost could stop a person from retiring with such high premiums. The board agreed to review this topic at a future meeting.

### **Future Agenda Items**

1. Wellness overview
2. Reviewing the annual work plan
3. Contract review as needed (see schedule in Dropbox)
  - a. VT-NEA Contract 7/1/22
4. VSTRS Plan Designs for the pre-Medicare
5. Conflict of Interest Policy

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

A date was not set. The VEHI management team will work with the Chair and Vice Chair on a next meeting date.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Joel Cook adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Bobby-Jo Salls