

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)
Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2020

Present:

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

VEHI Management Team: Mark Hage, Bobby-Jo Salls and Laura Soares

VSBIT Staff: Chris Roberts and Jonathan Steiner

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m., by Chair Joel Cook.

Review and Adoption of Agenda:

Laura noted one clarification of the agenda number 9 (COVID update). The agenda was adopted as presented.

Public Comment:

None.

Reorganization:

- a. Election of Board Officers (Chair and Vice Chair – see Protocol)

The Board protocol designates the Chair be selected from one of the VSBA appointees and the Vice-Chair from one of the VT-NEA appointees this year. Zach McLaughlin nominated Tracy Wrend as Chair. Tracy accepted the nomination and Tracy was elected Chair.

Peggy Maxfield made a motion to nominate and elect Joel Cook as Vice Chair. Joel accepted the nomination and the motion was seconded by Lisa Grout. The motion passed.

- b. Appointment of Corporate Officers (President and Secretary)

The President position has been vacant since November 2019 when Laura Soares resigned from the role. Many of the duties of the President were delegated to VSBIT in the September 2019 Resolution on the Delegation of Authority. Four duties were delegated to the Chair in the minutes of the September 2019 Board meeting. Rob Halpert was asked to provide guidance on

addressing the role of President in a comprehensive manner. It was agreed to follow current practice until the Chair and Vice-Chair come back with a recommendation. Zach McLaughlin is currently Secretary. It was agreed he would continue in that role, and that this officer position will be reviewed again when the President role is formally filled.

c. Review of Documents:

i. Mission and Decision Guidelines

Tracy referenced the Mission and guidelines and gave their history of changes. Tracy asked that everyone take time in between meetings to review the Mission to have a more thorough conversation at the next meeting.

ii. Communication Protocol

Tracy provided a high level overview of the communication protocol.

iii. Agenda Protocol

Tracy provided a high level review of the agenda protocol, including the request for agenda items two weeks in advance of the meeting, and a final agenda being sent out one week in advance of the meeting.

iv. Election of Board Officers Protocol

Tracy provided a high level review of the election protocol, noting that it had just used the protocol during the election of officers.

v. Code of Ethics Policy

Tracy reviewed, at a high level, the code of ethics policy.

vi. Conflict of Interest Policy

Tracy provided a high level review of the COI policy and asked, as part of the policy, that Bobby-Jo sent out the COI form for everyone to complete no later than two weeks in advance of the next board meeting. These disclosures will be reviewed by the Board so all members are aware and the Board can manage any conflicts.

vii. Whistleblower Policy

Tracy reviewed the whistleblower policy at a high level

Approval of Board Minutes: October 20, 2020

Mark Hage requested that the word “dental” be added prior to the reference to the “premium relief” in the 10-20-2020 minutes. Zach made a motion, seconded by Peggy, to approve the meeting minutes of October 20, 2020 with the edit noted by Mark. The motion passed.

Action on VSTRS Potential RFP

- a. Review main provisions of VSTRS RFP for under-65 and Medicare-eligible retirees, including the timeline for submission

Mark Hage provided an overview of the RFP which was released last week and is due December 8th. This is a tight timeline and will require a significant commitment of resources from VEHI and BCBSVT. Mark will be the point person for VEHI.

- b. Review and act on Memorandum of Understanding between Vermont Blues Advantage/BCBSVT and VEHI to facilitate a joint bid on VSTRS’s RFP if the latter seeks a transition to MA plans in FY22

Mark reviewed the MOU in detail. It was developed with input from VBA and the advice of VEHI’s legal counsel, and is currently with VBA for final review. In the event VBA requests any changes, they will be vetted by the full management team and legal counsel before being brought to the Chair for signature. A motion was made by Zach, seconded by Lisa, to authorize the Chair to sign the MOU when finalized as indicated.

- c. Authorize Chair to sign RFP submissions:
 1. Joel made a motion, seconded by Peggy, to authorize Mark Hage to sign the intent to bid letter that is due November 18th. The motion passed.
 2. Zach made a motion, seconded by Joel, to authorize the Chair to sign a formal agreement with VBA, developed in conjunction with VEHI’s attorney, that commits each party to stand behind what they represent in the RFP bid response and to provide for joint indemnification, prior to formal submission of the joint bid. The motion passed.
 3. Peggy made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to authorize the Chair to sign bid submissions for a) VEHI’s current benefit plans for both the under-65 and Medicare-eligible retirees and b) the joint collaboration with VBA/BCBSVT inclusive of MA plans for the Medicare-eligible retirees. The motion passed.

Investment Overview and Update (C. Roberts)

Chris reviewed her memo, providing an historical overview of the Investment Policy. She then reviewed the annual investment performance and noted that since investing in equities, as now allowed by the Board's Investment Policy, performance the rate of return is greater.

Zach made the motion, seconded by Peggy to accept the investment reports as provided by Chris Roberts. The motion passed.

Review and Accept 9-30-20 Financials (C. Roberts)

Chris Roberts reviewed the 9-30-20 financials and answered questions. Zach made a motion, seconded by Joel, to accept the financials as presented. The motion passed.

Update on COVID-19 Modeling and Cost Sharing Waivers

Bobby-Jo Salls provided an update on both the Cost-sharing waivers applied to COVID-19 related services as well as the updated COVID modeling done by BCBSVT.

The VEHI management team continues to review monthly reports from BCBSVT regarding the volume and severity of COVID-19 claims. The team continues to adapt the coverage based on direction from DFR and generally following the BCBSVT book of business.

When filing the rates in October, the team used analysis from BCBSVT's actuaries that estimated an increase of three percent in FY 21 claims due to the pandemic, both from the timing of FY 20 deferred services and FY 21 COVID claims. BCBSVT updated modeling suggested an additional one percent increase in FY 21 claims could be expected. The updated modeling also indicates FY 22 claims could be 1% higher than estimated in the filing. However, given the rate load added to the FY 22 indicated rates, the management team agreed to leave the rates as filed and review again for the FY 23 filing.

Discuss Future Agenda Items

From agenda item number 4. C. i. – VEHI Mission discussion.

From agenda item number 4. C. ii. – Review COI disclosures and the COI Policy.

Set Date for Next Board Meeting

The VSBIT staff will request dates of availability for January 2021.

Tracy thanked Laura Soares for her many years of commitment and dedication to the VEHI board.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Bobby-Jo Salls