

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)
Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
May 12, 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

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m., by Board Chair Tracy Wrend.

Review and Adoption of Agenda:

Joel Cook made a motion, seconded by Peggy Maxfield to approve agenda as presented. The motion passed.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Board Minutes: January 25, 2021

Zach McLaughlin made a motion, seconded by Geo Honigford, to approve the meeting minutes of January 25, 2021 as presented. The motion passed.

Management Updates

a. RX Cooperative Study

Mark Hage reported on the conclusion of staying with our current partnership based on the Three-State Rx Collaborative Analysis.

b. COVID-19 / DFR Request

Bobby-Jo Salls reviewed and highlighted the response from DFR on the COVID-19 health insurer financial impact study. The study showed that VEHI reserves are within a reasonable level and required no change to rating at this time. DFR will request updated information in the coming month.

c. Commission Update

Bobby-Jo updated the board on the Commission data requests to date for the next round of statewide negotiations happening in 2021. Joel asked if that information was available for the board. Bobby-Jo will send board members the link to the commission data after the meeting.

d. VSTRS RFP Status

A memorandum was sent to the board prior to the meeting for the board to review.

e. Enrollment Numbers

Bobby-Jo provided a report of enrollment numbers from 2020 and 2021 to show the difference in numbers. This was not a 1:1 comparison because of the change in employee segmentation. The 2021 – 2022 numbers will better reflect the 1:1 changes.

Approve Contract Renewals for: Remedy, Gallagher, BCBSVT and VSTRS six month extension

Bobby-Jo, Mark and Jon reviewed the four contract renewals and requested approval to move forward once contract negotiations are complete, with the understanding that the board will be made aware of their completion and the contract will be made available for review prior to the chair's signature. Joel made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to approve the annual renewal of the contracts with Remedy, Gallagher, BCBSVT and VSTRS six month extension. The motion passed.

Annual Work Plan

Tracy presented the VEHI Annual Work Plan of the VEHI Board to the Board. Tracy noted the challenges of the different “years” they work with (including, board year October – September, renewal year July – June, and benefit plan year January – December). She noted there should be a version of the document that is the list of work that must be performed year over year, removing some things that are ad hoc. Joel asked that the chair and vice chair work together to define the work plan. Tracy agreed that she, Joel and Bobby-Jo would schedule time to work on this.

Vermont-NEA Quarterly Reports (Q4 2020, Q1 2021)

Tracy thanked Mark for his report and noted the value of knowing of issues that have come up and if/when the board should be involved. Joel moved, and Zach seconded, to affirm receipt of the Vermont-NEA quarterly reports. The motion passed.

Vermont-NEA and VSBIT Annual Evaluations

Tracy thanked VSBIT and Vermont-NEA for their thorough and thoughtful evaluations and stated that she would like to have a further conversation about employee education; noting the good work the Vermont-NEA did in communicating pension-related member education and noted that similar work would be beneficial in the area of member education for health care. Joel noted that “resources” would need to be part of that conversation.

Joel moved, and Peggy seconded, to affirm receipt of the Vermont-NEA and VSBIT annual evaluations. The motion passed.

VEHI Finance Updates – C. Roberts

a. Review VEHI Financials

Chris reviewed the 3-31-2021 financials, noting the health plan is currently running a \$6 million dollar gain in the health pool and a loss of \$382,285 in the dental pool (as planned). Chris also noted the final quarter of FY 21 will change these numbers. Geo asked about the wellness program and how it works and how we define the success. Chris suggested that the board invite the wellness team in to a future meeting explain the program and their data.

Peggy made a motion, seconded by Zach, to accept the financials. The motion passed.

b. Review and adopt VEHI Budget

Chris presented the FY 22 budget to the Board for consideration. Peggy noted there is no assumed increase for Vermont-NEA and Joel stated that he could not vote to approve the budget without this line being reviewed. Tracy asked that the board consider approving the line in the wellness budget to allow the wellness team to continue their work and services.

Joel made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to defer action on the overall [FY 22] budget, but to adopt the component of the budget relating to the wellness program expenses. The motion passed.

c. VEHI Audit Engagement Letter

Zach noted the increase in this line item in the budget and asked if this is something that we bid out. Chris explained there are only two auditors in the state that do this work and the other is out of Burlington and is more expensive. Using the same auditing firm as VSBIT is beneficial and efficient during the auditing process.

Geo made a motion, seconded by Peggy, to affirm the engagement letter by Sullivan and Powers for the FY 21 audit. The motion passed. Tracy will sign and return to Chris.

Discuss Future Agenda Items

Employee Education
Third Party Administrators (TPA)

Wellness Program Presentation
Budget
Vermont-NEA Service Agreement

Set Date for Next Board Meeting

The VSBIT staff will request dates of availability for the next board meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Bobby-Jo Salls