



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
HEALTHCARE POLICY & BENEFIT SERVICES DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

**HEALTHCARE COST CONTAINMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 10, 2023**

Meeting Called to Order by Josh Wojcik:

**Attendance:**

<b>Labor</b>	<b>State Comptroller Administrative Staff</b>
Carl Chisem – CEUI	Joshua Wojcik
Dan Livingston – SEBAC	Thomas Woodruff
	<b>Presenters</b>
	Bernie Slowik – OSC
<b>Management</b>	
Gregory Messner	Betsy Nosal – OSC
	<b>Consultants</b>
<b>Dept. of Insurance</b>	Terry DeMattie, Segal
Paul Lombardo	

**Public Comment:**

No public comment

**Financials:**

The projection for the active appropriation shows a positive of just over \$35M, and on the retiree side, the projection is \$85M, with the underlying FAD balances now seeing a projected \$50M combined FAD balance on active side and \$195M projected FAD balance on the retiree side.

## **Partnership:**

As of April 1, there are 160 groups enrolled and totaling just under 25,000 employees and approximately 58,000 members. As of this month we've had 127 groups who have completed their three-year contracts commitments under Partnership and had the option of leaving without an early termination penalty. Prior to 1/1, there were ten groups that decided to leave. Medical rates were communicated in late March, the overall active rate increase was 7.2%. Now awaiting dental RFP rates and once finalized, these will be communicated to those groups who have that option. On April 18 and 20, will be holding two Partnership update meetings. For existing group leads that will include an updated utilization review and information on Quantum Health and the Quality First option for July 1. On April 27, the team will be going to CASBO (CT Assoc. of School Business Officials) to market the Partnership plan and answer questions.

## **Partnership 1.0**

Five groups remaining totaling 2,400 employees and just under 3,400 members

Q: what were the Partnership Medicare Advantage rates for July?

A: Medicare Advantage is for January

## **Utilization Review:**

Continuing to See positive trends. Overall medical shows in a twelve month period, CY 22, compared to CY 21, seeing medical trend at 3.7%, highlighting pharmacy – shown at 8.2%, but this does not factor in the Prudent Rx savings . Recent review of this showed this trend to be negative, so this is closer to -5% trend. Outpatient facility continues to rise, this to what is being seen across the industry as services move from inpatient to outpatient. Should continue to monitor ER visits that continue to be increasing at a high level. Specialty pharmacy is the overall largest driver of Rx, but Prudent Rx has tamped down trend. we will continue to look at this each month.

## **Communications Update:**

For the last couple of months, we have held monthly seminars, Upswing has been holding seminars on different topics. April's topic was arthritis. These are communicated to members and engagement has been steadily increasing. Monthly wellbeing seminars are open to employees and dependents, and has seen positive member participation. At the end of March, there were communications on the upcoming Quantum Health transition, with more to come on the benefits associated with the new administrator.

## **Dental RFP:**

Initial proposals were due February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. There were six bidders, three finalists were selected, finalist interviews were held with best and final offers being received in a reverse

auction style bidding, which helped to further improve pricing by vendors. The RFP review committee submitted its final scoring on March 29, a unanimous decision was made to retain Cigna as the incumbent and the Comptroller notified Cigna last week. Currently working on implementation and open enrollment, as well as integrating them with Quantum. Will continue to work on this in the coming months.

**Budget Rates:**

Finalized rates are in the process of finishing testing for fiscal year 24. On the active health side, we have an overall rate increase of 7.5%, and at 5.6% on retiree side. Dental saw a (-6%) on dental HMO, 0.7% on the active plan and on retiree plan is 4.7% increase. Overall the increase was lower than anticipated in the original budget. Overall projected increase for FY24 is 1.89% over FY23 so a very moderate increase.

**Josh Wojcik** – invited other questions or comments from committee members and the public. There were no additional questions or comments, call for motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Dan Livingston, seconded by Gregory Messner.

Meeting was adjourned