



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

HEALTHCARE COST CONTAINMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2023

Meeting Called to Order by Josh Wojcik:

Attendance:

Labor	State Comptroller Administrative Staff
Carl Chisem – CEUI	Joshua Wojcik
Dan Livingston – SEBAC	Thomas Woodruff
Dave Glidden – CSEA	
	Presenters
	Bernie Slowik – OSC
Management	Rae-Ellen Roy – OSC
Gregory Messner	Betsy Nosal – OSC
	Consultants
Dept. of Insurance	Terry DeMattie, Segal
Paul Lombardo	

Public Comment:

No public comment

Financials:

On the Active appropriation projections there was an adjustment processed for the UCONN fringe benefits resulting in a \$4.4M reduction which will close the year at a projected \$32M. On FAD side see claims better than anticipated, currently, Anthem is \$40M less than anticipated, for the current fiscal year. On the retiree side, the expected appropriation balance increased a bit over last month's projection, now expecting to close the year at \$71.3M due to the premiums flowing through payroll as expected for the Medicare Advantage update for Aetna, roughly \$7.5M in premium each month. On the

OPEB FAD account, claims increased slightly for medical, topping \$2M, with pharmacy claims continue to be lower than anticipated so anticipate closing the year at \$210.5M there which is above the necessary IBNR. Preliminary review of the Governor's budget indicates the adjustment to UCONN fringe rate adjustment will be ok, if this does not happen, and we don't get these funds back and the appropriations are not provided to us, may need further review and consideration.

Q: Did the Governor's budget retain the primary care PMPM payments for the second year – did they go up?

A: The Governor's budget proposed does not provide the detail on this. Upcoming appropriations Committee meeting on this Thursday so should be able to deep dive into the backup, Karen may be able to provide detail.

Karen: On the active side, went with the adjusted numbers except the higher ed fringe benefit reallocation on retiree side, did cut a bit because Medicare part B premiums going down, there was a \$3 or \$4M cut. Other than that, was pretty much what you requested.

A: In request, OSC did include the PMPM payments, in the rate adjustment.

Medicare Advantage Implementation Update:

MA is fully implemented and running well. Aetna has removed its prior authorization for physical therapy company wide. Anyone who had a PT claim or had a request after the start of the benefit year has been reprocessed. Aetna made this change as it determined that administratively, the costs were high and these requests were generally all being approved. A claim coding concern was noted in Aetna's billing system, for naturopath related claims, this has since been corrected and all claims have been reprocessed. On the Medicare premium collection side, while everything was appropriately received by Aetna and reported in the January case cycle, there was an error in the internal payroll processing system that didn't pick up those updates, but this will be corrected in the February cycle. For those who submitted IRMAA updates to Aetna, they received the rate they received in December, adjustments are being made for February pension cycle to make these individuals whole. Communications have been made to those individuals who had a more significant recoupment or payment adjustment to be made. A new communication process for new retirees for those turning 65 and aging into Medicare, Aetna is partnering with OSC to roll out a more comprehensive process. OSC will still send the letter 90 days in advance of a member turning 65, Aetna will send reminder postcard mailings, 60 then 30 days before the person turns 65. Additionally, Aetna will host a monthly seminar online so individuals turning 65 have an opportunity to meet with the Aetna team to learn more about the transition and what to expect. Those members turning 65 in April will be the first to experience this.

Q: Medicare premium data – upcoming meeting requested sample letters.

A: Will provide. In addition to the letters, did send an email to all we have individuals impacted by the payroll issue. Just over 18K email addresses on file, 12 or 14K opened the email. Reply rate was small.

Partnership:

For Partnership 2.0, as of February, have 160 groups enrolled, totaling just under 25,000 employees, and approximately 58,000 members. As of first of the month, 126 groups who completed their three-year contract commitment, and had the option of exiting without incurring an early termination penalty, to date there have been ten groups that decided to leave prior to 1/1 of this year A Partnership meeting for existing group leads was held, and provided an update rate projection of 8% to 10% for July 1 renewal, plan on providing one more email update toward the end of February before rates are finalized in early April.

Partnership 1.0

No change. Five groups remaining totaling 2,400 employees and just under 3,400 members.

Utilization Update:

Providing context for improving budget numbers and summary data for utilization and trend increases over the course of FY22 and the most recent twelve months, ending at the first quarter of FY23, the data shows significant improvements with the overall trend rate decreasing by 3%, with improvement in areas of concern last year including outpatient facility, pharmacy, Should be able to provide a review of the first six months of FY23 in our next review. And anticipate further improvement in these categories.

Communications Update:

Two all user email went out: HEP monthly seminar registration schedule and Upswing Health monthly webinar registration and information. Both email campaigns were sent to state work and personal emails and state Partnership groups (which are comprised mostly of personal emails). Have a greater open rate for the state personal email; for those opening from office email, see a higher click-through-rate in terms of registering for seminars and using links to more information about the services. Will continue to send to office and personal emails in an effort to reach and meet the needs of members.

Josh Wojcik – Questions or comments?

Motion to Adjourn was made by Karen Nolan, seconded by Dan Livingston

Meeting was adjourned