

**Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington  
Health Insurance Consortium**

P.O. Box 455  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

**“News to Know” – December 2018/January 2019 Newsletter**  
**From the CEWW Health Insurance Consortium Advisory Committee**

**You Are Represented**

In October 2017, when the health insurance financial crisis was discovered, the Consortium Board of Directors selected six superintendents and the BOCES Assistant Superintendent of Management Services to examine the issue and propose options. The group made an initial recommendation in December of 2017 to immediately raise the premiums 10%. That increase in revenues helped keep the plan afloat for the next six months.

In January 2018, in order to take a more comprehensive examination of the issues that resulted in the financial shortfall, the Consortium Board expanded the committee to include representatives from the various stakeholder groups. The composition of the committee was made permanent in November of 2018. The Committee consists of the following voting members; two retired individuals, two business officials, two teachers, the BOCES Assistant Superintendent of Management Services, three labor relations specialists and five superintendents. Over the course of the last year the initial Ad Hoc has evolved into what is now called the Advisory Committee. As you can see from the following list of members, the interest of those who receive their health insurance through the Consortium are well represented.

The following are the current committee voting members:

Eric Bell is the Assistant Superintendent of Management Services for Champlain Valley Educational Services (CEWW BOCES). Before joining the BOCES, Eric worked in the Beekmantown CSD business office and is also a former auditor for the NYS Comptroller's Office.

Scott Brow has been the School Business Executive for the AuSable Valley Central School District for the past nineteen years.

Chris Chandler has been a NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist for over fifteen years. Prior to that, he taught English in the Saranac Central School District for ten years, five of which he served as President of the Saranac Teachers' Association.

Justin Gardner is the Superintendent of the Willsboro Central School District. He was previously the principal at Beekmantown High School and is also a former social studies teacher.

Stephen Gratto taught eighth grade science and physics at Peru Central School for thirteen years. Steve was the High School Principal at Northeastern Clinton Central School for eight years. Currently he is in his fourth year as Superintendent at Schroon Lake Central School.

Robert E. Joyce has been employed by BOCES since Sept. 1954 in many capacities, from Teacher to Assistant Supt. retiring in 1990. Since retirement, Bob has been a Facilitator for Communications for CEWW BOCES which has ended as of Jan. 15, 2019. Bob has been involved in health insurance since it became available in the 1950s up to the present time. Bob is the historian, having been involved from before health insurance was provided through the present Consortium.

David Kokes has taught special education at Northeastern Clinton Central School for thirty years. He is currently President of the Northeastern Clinton Central School Teachers' Association.

Jay Lebrun is the Superintendent of the Plattsburgh City School District. He has previously served as both Associate Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs. He also previously served as Chairperson for an Article 47 public school health insurance consortium. Jay was among the first superintendents called upon to address the shortfall.

Dan Mayberry is the Superintendent and School Business Official at Keene CSD. He has been with the district for seven years and formally served as their K-12 Principal and CSE Chairperson. Dan was among the first superintendents called upon to address the shortfall.

Jonathan Parks is the Superintendent of Schools for the Saranac Central School District. Jonathan was among the first superintendents called upon to address the shortfall.

Emy Pombrio is a Labor Relations Specialist with CSEA with assignments in Clinton and Essex counties since 2007. Prior to that Emy served as CSEA Regional Counsel and was a practicing area attorney specializing in labor and employment law in Plattsburgh since 1994 and a Corporate Labor Relations Representative with Waldorf Corporation in St. Paul, MN from 1990 – 1994.

Robert (Bob) Porter is a sixth Grade Science Teacher at Ticonderoga Middle School and the owner of The Wind-Chill Factory. He is a past President of Ticonderoga Teacher's Association (TTA), and has held the position as the TTA's Negotiation Chair since 2004.

Dan Shaw is a labor relations specialist with Capital Region BOCES assigned to many of the Consortium's districts. Dan has provided guidance on labor relations and human resource matters to area North Country schools while working for both Capital Region BOCES and CEWW BOCES. Prior to his career as a labor relations specialist, Dan spent nearly 15 years as a financial analyst.

Roderick (Rod) Sherman is a retired teacher, having taught mathematics and computer science for 45 years in the Plattsburgh City School District. For thirty-nine years Rod was President of the Plattsburgh Teachers' Association. He is trustee and former Chairperson of the NYSUT Member Benefits Catastrophic Major Medical Plan. He is a member of the NYSUT Champlain Valley Council of Retirees and the Northeastern Zone of NYSRTA.

Brian Tousignant is School District Business Manager in the Northern Adirondack Central School District, in which capacity he has served for fourteen years. Brian is a Certified Public Accountant.

Non-voting members:

Brendan Foley is a Senior Consultant in Segal's New York office, with experience in multiemployer and multiple employer benefits consulting. He consults to a variety of multiemployer and public sector multiple employer health, annuity, and pension fund clients. Mr. Foley's background and expertise includes preparing health and pension actuarial valuations and other actuarial and communications related projects for clients across various industries.

Phil Lupe is a health benefits specialist for CSEA. Phil's responsibilities with CSEA are statewide.

Jessie Moulton has served as the Secretary/Recording Secretary of the CEWW Health Insurance Consortium for over a decade.

Christine Myers is the Treasurer for CEWW BOCES. For the last eighteen years she has also served as the treasurer of both the Consortiums (Health Insurance and the Workers' Compensation). She has served in that capacity for eighteen years.

Hollis Palmer PhD serves as the non-voting Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. After fifty years as a teacher and administrator at all levels of public education, Hollis is semi-retired. His last full-time position was as Interim Assistant Superintendent of Management Services at the CEWW BOCES.