

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

P.O. Box 455
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

DATE: October 16, 2019
KIND OF MEETING: Board of Directors Meeting
PLACE: Plattsburgh City Schools
Plattsburgh, NY

Board Members Present:

Shari Brannock
Mark Davey
John Donohue
Justin Gardner
Robb Garrand
Stephen Gratto
James Knight, Jr.
William Larrow
Jay Lebrun
Phil Lupe (9:02 a.m.)
Daniel Mannix
Daniel Mayberry
Kim Mayer
Joshua Meyer
Scott Osborne (9:02 a.m.)
Thomas Palmer (9:16 a.m.)
Javier Perez
Emy Pombrio
Bob Porter
Paul Savage

Board Members Absent:

Chairperson:

Jay Lebrun

Recording Secretary:

Jessie Moulton

Others Present:

Eric Bell
Jacqueline Kelleher
Jon Parks
Larry Singer
Audience Members

MEETING
TO ORDER

Chairperson Lebrun called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Phil Lupe and Scott Osborne arrived at 9:02 a.m.

PUBLIC
COMMENT
SESSION

Rod Sherman thanked the Board for inviting the Advisory Committee to the meeting with Empire BlueCross and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. He understands the worry about disruption with the change, but pointed out the biggest disruption would be if we could no longer make our payments. It was a unanimous decision to transition to Empire BlueCross.

RESOLUTION TO
ACCEPT THE
LETTER OF
RESIGNATION
FROM DAVE

Mr. Mannix moved, seconded by Mr. Meyer, to accept the resignation of Dave Kokes, from both the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee, effective September 26, 2019. All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

There were wishes for Dave's happy retirement, and thanks for his service.

KOKES

APPOINT KIM
MAYER TO THE
VACANT SEAT ON
THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS AND
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Mr. Osborne moved, seconded by Dr. Davey, to appoint Kim Mayer to the vacant seat on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee. All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Ms. Mayer was welcomed.

DISCUSSION
REGARDING
SEGAL
CONSULTING
FEES

Larry Singer of Segal Consulting explained that the arrangement with Excellus BC/BS was that Segal received commissions, and did not bill the Consortium for their work. That will not be the case with Empire BC. Jon Parks stated that money for Segal's services is in the budget, and Eric Bell provided that this is an aidable cost through the co-ser. Jon stated that Segal's base cost is \$48,000, and there is a sufficient amount in the budget to cover the rest of this year.

RESOLUTION TO
AUTHORIZE
CHAIRPERSON
LEBRUN TO
ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT TO
TERMINATE THE
EXISTING
MINIMUM
PREMIUM
AGREEMENT
WITH EXCELLUS
EFFECTIVE
DECEMBER 31,
2019

Mr. Savage moved, seconded by Mr. Osborne, to approve the Resolution to authorize Chairperson Lebrun to enter into an agreement to terminate the existing minimum premium agreement with Excellus effective December 31, 2019, in accordance with the terms of the Minimum Premium Agreement, and to provide for an orderly processing of claims incurred but not paid as of such date, subject to review of final agreement by the Consortium's consultant and legal counsel.

Mr. Mannix assured the audience that this process was rigorous, and this decision was based on what is best for the long-term sustainability of the plan. Mr. Mannix thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Lebrun explained that one of the reasons for the RFP was the fact that the rate increases were unsustainable. Many Consortia conduct RFPs every few years as a routine practice.

Dr. Davey commended the Advisory and Executive Committees, and the Board of Directors, for their hard work and thoroughness, and also Jon Parks for his leadership following Dr. Hollis Palmer.

Ms. Pombrio expressed that she was very appreciative of the welcome she received, and stated that there was much time, detail and effort put in by the Advisory Committee relative to this decision. She noted that minimizing disruption to the members was a top priority.

Dr. Palmer arrived at 9:16 a.m.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the above resolution: Mr. Savage—yes; Mr. Mannix—yes; Mr. Meyer—yes; Mr. Osborne—yes; Dr. Davey—yes; Mrs. Brannock—

yes; Mr. Mayberry—yes; Mr. Larrow—yes; Mr. Garrand—yes; Mr. Knight—yes; Dr. Palmer—yes; Mr. Lebrun—yes; Mr. Perez—yes; Mr. Gratto—yes; Mr. Donohue—yes; Mr. Gardner—yes; Ms. Pombrio—yes; Mr. Lupe—yes; Mr. Porter—yes; Ms. Mayer—yes; — motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO
AUTHORIZE
CHAIRPERSON
LEBRUN TO
ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT
WITH THE
SUCCESSFUL
FIRM OF THE RFP
PROCESS, EMPIRE
BLUE CROSS, FOR
AN INSURED
MINIMUM
PREMIUM
AGREEMENT FOR
COMBINED
MEDICAL AND
PRESCRIPTION
DRUG BENEFITS
EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2020

Mr. Savage moved, seconded by Mr. Donohue, to approve the Resolution to authorize Chairperson Lebrun to enter into an agreement with the successful firm of the RFP process, Empire Blue Cross, for an insured minimum premium agreement for combined medical and prescription drug benefits effective January 1, 2020, subject to review of final agreement by the Consortium’s consultant and legal counsel.

Mr. Lebrun pointed out that Empire has served our Consortium previously.

Discussion followed regarding provider networks and formularies.

Two (2) representatives from Empire BlueCross addressed the audience, and expressed their commitment to this transition.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the above resolution: Mr. Savage—yes; Mr. Mannix—yes; Mr. Meyer—yes; Mr. Osborne—yes; Dr. Davey—yes; Mrs. Brannock—yes; Mr. Mayberry—yes; Mr. Larrow—yes; Mr. Garrand—yes; Mr. Knight—yes; Dr. Palmer—yes; Mr. Lebrun—yes; Mr. Perez—yes; Mr. Gratto—yes; Mr. Donohue—yes; Mr. Gardner—yes; Ms. Pombrio—yes; Mr. Lupe—yes; Mr. Porter—yes; Ms. Mayer—yes; — motion carried.

Empire BlueCross expressed their excitement to be working with our Consortium, and Mr. Lebrun thanked Segal for their help.

PUBLIC
COMMENT
SESSION

Various issues and questions by the audience were addressed by Empire and the Board, including:

-The reason the Consortium left Empire was that, at that time, Empire had simplified their product design, and had eliminated the “Matrix” product, which the Consortium fell under.

-Empire will be receiving member prescription drug information from Excellus. If a member has already received prior authorization for a specific prescription drug, they should not have to get another one.

-Informational meetings will be scheduled throughout the region.

-Coverage for out-of-area, including abroad, will work exactly the same as with Excellus.

-Members should continue to use their Excellus ID cards through 12/31/2019. Empire ID cards are expected to be mailed out by mid-December 2019.

-Mail order will be through Ingenio. Members can also go to CVS for a 90-day supply, at the mail order copay.

Dr. Davey welcomed Kim Mayer, and shared that she is a teacher at CVES, has been a union president, and a school board member, and with a lot of expertise and knowledge.

He encourages the work of the Advisory Committee and the Board to continue to move forward, especially in regards to transparency and help members to be better consumers.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Davey moved, seconded by Mr. Osborne, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Jessie Moulton, Recording Secretary