



**MEETING OF THE HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE
OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD OF THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' AND OFFICERS'
ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF COOK COUNTY AND EX OFFICIO FOR THE FOREST
PRESERVE DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF COOK COUNTY**

**70 W. Madison, Suite 1925
Chicago, IL 60602**

Minutes for the September 19, 2019, Health Benefits Committee Meeting

The County Employees' and Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County are herein collectively referred to as the "Fund." All committee recommendations are preliminary in nature and subject to review and approval by the full Retirement Board.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Jack Fitzgerald (Chair); Robert DeGraff; Bill Kouruklis; Patrick McFadden; Kevin Ochalla; Dennis White

Trustees Present: Joe Nevius

Staff Present: Regina Tuczak, Executive Director; Jane Hawes, Director, Health Benefits; Rachelle Howliet, Senior Health Benefits Specialist; Tonya Jackson, Benefits Specialist.

Others Present: Daniel Levin, Segal Consulting.

Public Comment

Chairman Fitzgerald opened the meeting for public comment and no one having requested to address the Committee, the next item of business on the Agenda was considered.

1. Review and Consideration of August 6, 2019, Health Benefits Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Trustee Ochalla and seconded by Trustee DeGraff that the presented minutes of the Health Benefits Committee meeting on August 6, 2019, be adopted.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

2. Health Benefits Exception Policy

Gina Tuczak reviewed the Health Benefit Exception Policy, previously approved by the Retirement Board on April 4, 2019, and asked the Health Benefits Committee to consider an amendment to address expedited exceptions. The amendment would give staff authority to approve benefit exceptions over \$3,000 which require immediate action. In the event staff approves an expedited exception, the request will be presented for ratification at the next open meeting of the Retirement Board or Health Benefits Committee.

It was moved by Trustee Ochalla and seconded by Trustee McFadden to recommend the Board approve the amended Health Benefits Exception Policy which would allow staff to approved exceptions over \$3,000 which require immediate action.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

3. Benefit Plan Change – Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Services

Jane Hawes reported that it was recently discovered that a discrepancy exists between acute inpatient rehabilitation (rehab) benefits for Medicare and non-Medicare members, due to the fact that Medicare provides separate acute inpatient rehab and skilled nursing benefits. The Health Benefits Committee was asked to consider a recommendation to the Board to align acute inpatient rehab and skilled nursing benefits for non-Medicare members with benefits for Medicare members.

It was moved by Trustee Ochalla and seconded by Trustee DeGraff to recommend the Board approve changing acute inpatient rehab benefits for non-Medicare members to 150 days of inpatient hospital coverage, and also provide separate benefits for skilled nursing limited to 90 days each plan year, effective 1/1/2020 for both Choice and Choice Plus plans.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

4. Review of UHC Wellness Budget and Consideration of Future Expenditures

Ms. Hawes stated there is a balance of approximately \$78,000 in the UHC wellness budget. UHC has agreed to roll-over any remaining money to next year and combine this with the 2020 plan year budget of \$120,000. The Committee reviewed a list of services the UHC wellness credit may be used to cover and agreed to consider funding programs to support diabetes self-management. The Committee also agreed to consider providing blood pressure monitors and bathroom scales for the members who were unsuccessful participants in the coupon campaign earlier this year.

5. CVS Commercial and EGWP Contract Status

Dan Levin reported that although fee documents have been approved and implemented for both the CVS commercial (non-Medicare) and EGWP (Medicare) contracts, the terms of the CVS and EGWP contracts are still being negotiated. Segal is assisting staff in these negotiations which are aimed at achieving better control of pharmacy costs through contract definitions and terms.

6. Coalition Medical RFP Report

Proposals for health benefits administrative services for the coalition of municipal agencies (the Coalition) are due October 1, 2019. Staff and Segal will be reviewing proposals and participating in Coalition meetings and reviewing proposals.

7. Open Enrollment Preparations

Ms. Hawes advised the Committee that rental agreements for two event locations have not reached a satisfactory conclusion. Alternative sites were discussed and Trustee White suggested renting facilities at Cook County Forest Preserve properties.

8. Health Benefits Committee Meeting to be Held on October 10, 2019

The Committee will consider various options for use of the UHC wellness budget in 2020.

9. Old Business/New Business

Ms. Tuczak informed the Committee that Chairman Fitzgerald is retiring from his Trustee position and Trustee DeGraff has elected not to seek another term as Trustee. Ms. Tuczak thanked them for their service.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, it was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee White that the trustees adjourn the meeting.

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED BY VOICE VOTE

The next Health Benefits Committee meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.