

Vermont Education Health Initiative

Board of Director's Meeting

January 13, 2016

Amended

Present: Tracy Wrend, Martha Allen, Joel Cook, Martha Gagner, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Mark Hage and Laura Soares

Members of the Public: Steve Stitzel

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm., by Chair, Tracy Wrend

**With consent of the Board, Tracy Wrend reordered the agenda to include a public comment period and to hold New plan Discussion until last.**

Mr. Stitzel indicated his comments were related to agenda items and would be offered at the appropriate time.

**Approve Minutes of December 17, 2015.** Martha Gagner made a motion, seconded by Martha Allen, to approve the minutes with one correction to a typo. Motion passed.

**Legislative/Regulatory Update**

Mark Hage provided an overview of the status of VEHI's activities related to obtaining approval by DFR to amend our Operational Plan and continue to serve all size school districts with the new health plans. A motion was made by Martha Gagner, seconded by Martha Allen, to authorize the Trust Administrators to continue the services of attorney Chuck Storrow to support this effort through the month of February as needed. Motion passed.

**Decision Tool and Enrollment Platform Discussion**

Laura Soares informed the Board that Health Equity will develop a decision tool as part of their agreement with VEHI, at no cost to VEHI. Trust Administrators are working with BCBSVT to facilitate the enrollment process and develop a protocol for electronic file transfer.

**Other Updates**

- a. The new contract with ESI and BCBSVT, which will bring additional savings to VEHI due to the Remedy relationship, is very close to being finalized. This contract will be retroactive until 7/1/2015.
- b. The Agreement with Health Equity is under discussion.
- c. The revised contract with Gallagher is still in the discussion phase.

### **New Plan Design Decisions**

Items a and b: A motion was made by Joel Cook, seconded by Martha Allen, to offer four plans (\$500, \$1,200, \$1,800 and \$3,000) and require all plans be offered by any school district that remains members of the VEHI health program in 2018 to avoid adverse selection and increase long-term stability of the program. The motion passed with Elizabeth Fitzgerald opposing.

Item c: A motion was made by Elizabeth Fitzgerald, seconded by Martha Gagner, to establish November 1, 2017 as the date by which enrollment information must be received to guarantee enrollment in the plan of choice effective January 1, 2018. In addition, in the event enrollment information is not provided by December 31, 2017, those employees which were enrolled in a default plan to ensure no disruption in health coverage will remain in the default plan until their employer's next open enrollment period or they experience a qualifying event. Motion passed.

Item e: a Motion was made by Joel Cook, seconded by Elizabeth Fitzgerald, to name the plans VEHI Platinum, VEHI Gold, VEHI Gold CDHP and VEHI Silver CDHP. Motion passed.

Item d: There was consensus among the Board that there is an expectation parties will take actions to settle or select a locally-determined default plan so that in the vast majority of cases the VEHI-determined default plan will not be necessary to ensure no disruption in health coverage for employees. For those who wish to remain in VEHI, locally-determined default plans must be selected from one of the new VEHI plans.

A motion was made by Joel Cook, seconded by Martha Allen, that if it is necessary for VEHI to enroll employees in a VEHI-determined default plan, each employee will be mapped into the new VEHI plan closest in design to their current VEHI plan.

Before the vote, Steve Stitzel shared his experience with the status quo dynamic in a district that moved employees to Vermont Health connect in the middle of a contract.

The motion passed with Elizabeth Fitzgerald opposing.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Laura Soares