

Vermont Education Health Initiative
Board of Director's Meeting
March 21, 2016

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

Members of the Public: Emily Simmons, VSBA

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 pm., by Chair, Tracy Wrend

Public Comment - None

Approve Minutes of February 22, 2016. Martha Gagner made a motion, seconded by Martha Allen, to approve the minutes with two typos corrected. Motion passed.

Discuss Service Agreements

1. Laura Soares brought to the attention of the Board that in fulfilling its Service Agreement with VEHI, VSBIT does not bring any experience or knowledge relating to collective bargaining. The transition to new health plans will result in a change in the collective bargaining dynamics. In order for VEHI to meet its commitment to be neutral in regards to collective bargaining, Laura believes VSBIT needs support in ensuring the management perspective is included in the drafting of communications to the field.

A motion was made by Martha Gagner, seconded by Elizabeth Fitzgerald, to authorize VSBIT to secure services for the next six months to provide a management collective bargaining perspective to consider in developing VEHI communications regarding the transition to meet the goal of neutrality as related to the collective bargaining process. The motion passed.

Laura further brought to the attention of the Board that decisions regarding the administration of HRAs by Health Equity will need to consider administrative efficiencies as well as the perspectives of management and labor to meet the goal of neutrality. A motion was made by Martha Gagner, seconded by Martha Allen, authorizing Laura and Mark to bring appropriate resources to discussion with Health Equity regarding decisions on HRA administration to meet the goal of neutrality in collective bargaining.

To the degree needed, funding for these resources and services will be funded from the VEHI new health plan transition budget.

2. In regards to the Service Agreement with VT-NEA, Tracy raised the question as to whether the same level of services were needed by the VT-NEA to communicate with employees given the multitude of communication options available today. The Service Agreement discussion will continue at the next meeting, with a goal of finalizing the Agreement by the June meeting.

Discuss Feedback on Transition

Martha Gagner shared feedback that she is receiving from the management perspective that the default plan decision favors the Union. Elizabeth and Tracy indicated they are also receiving similar feedback. Tracy shared the written responses she has received with the rest of the Board. Joel indicated the Union is also receiving feedback that the decision to close the current plans effective 12/31/17 favors management.

Reaffirm Enrollment Information Deadline New Health Plans

A motion was made by Martha Allen, seconded by Martha Gagner, to reaffirm the decision to establish November 15th, 2017 as the date enrollment information in the new health plans needs to be received by VEHI. The motion passed.

FY 17 Budget Discussion

The Board reviewed the draft FY 17 budget. A brief discussion followed. The budget will be finalized by the June meeting.

Discuss and Authorize Move to ASO Relationship with BCBSVT 1/1/2018

Moving from a cost-plus to administrative services only (ASO) contract with BCBSVT will allow VEHI to make its new health plans available to all size school districts who wish to remain members in the health program. Laura and Mark will work with BCBSVT and DFR to address the operational issues that arise from this change, which will not take effect until 1/1/2018.

Discuss and Authorize Amendment Operational Plan for DFR Approval

The VEHI Operational Plan must be amended to accomplish the move to ASO. The Financial Plan may also require amendment.

A motion was made by Joel Cook, seconded by Martha Gagner, to authorize Laura and Mark to take necessary steps to move to an ASO contract and amend the Operational and Financial Plans reflecting this change and to meet DFR approval. The motion passed.

Bylaws Review

Upon reviewing the Bylaws, Laura suggested the board consider moving from six year terms to three year terms as seats are up for election. If the Board agrees, it would require a vote of the membership. This will be discussed in further depth at a future meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Laura Soares