

MINUTES

PUBLIC AGENCY COALITION ENTERPRISE (PACE)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 7, 2023

2:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

CALIFORNIA CITY, CITY OF	Latisha Lamberth
CLAREMONT, CITY OF	Daylene Alliman
DANVILLE, TOWN OF	Qiana London
DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CITY OF	Brent Jones
FOWLER, CITY OF	Angela Vasquez
GUSTINE, CITY OF	Melanie Correa
LINDSAY, CITY OF	Mari Carrillo
LIVINGSTON, CITY OF	Arcelia Cruz
NEWMAN, CITY OF	Mike Maier
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Christina Nygard
RIO DELL, CITY OF	Joanne Farley
SANGER, CITY OF	Becky Padron, Secretary/Treasurer
SONORA, CITY OF	Chris Gorsky
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, EL DORADO COUNTY	Heather Nelson
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, KINGS COUNTY	Nocona Soboleski
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, MENDOCINO CO.	Kim Turner, Vice President
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, SUTTER COUNTY	Joe Azevedo
SUTTER CREEK	Karen Darrow
TRUCKEE-DONNER RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT	David Faris, President

ALTERNATES:

AVENAL, CITY OF	Griselda Price
HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE DISTRICT	Robert Murias
MODOC COUNTY	Pam Randall
RIO DELL, CITY OF	Karen Dunham

MANAGERS:

KEENAN & ASSOCIATES	Peter McNamara
	Melissa King
	Christine Hough
	Nancy Schott

OTHERS:

KEENAN & ASSOCIATES	Sam Mel Chan
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Dayna Gowan
Dawn Almanzor
Pam Cote
Robin Neer
Edwin Esteron
Marshawn Swims
Alexandria Van Brunt
Sista Duncan

ANTHEM

Emma Rodriguez

EMPIRX

Michelle Rimes
Haajar Yanes

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – December 7, 2023

Action

Presented by David Faris

2023-020

Motion to approve the December 7, 2023 Agenda as amended to move Item 32 Election of Officers up in the agenda order to after Item 020: 1. Kim Turner and 2. Chris Gorsky. Motion carried unanimously by the Full Board.

Note: Item 2023-032 Election of Officers was discussed after Item 2023-020 as approved by the Full Board.

**ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT AND TWO NON-OFFICER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FOR JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2025 TERM**

Action

2023-032

Presented by E. Peter McNamara

Kim Turner, current Vice President, and Melanie Correa, one of the current Non-Officer Executive Committee Members agreed to serve another term of January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025.

The terms of President, David Faris, and Secretary/Treasurer, Becky Padron, run through December 31, 2024.

Motion to elect Kim Turner as Vice President and Melanie Correa as one Non-Officer Executive Committee Member: 1. David Faris and 2. Becky Padron. Motion carried unanimously by the Full Board.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 23, 2023

Action

Presented by David Faris

2023-021

Motion to approve the August 23, 2023 minutes: 1. Kim Turner and 2. Heather Nelson. Motion

unanimously approved by the Full Board.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

**Information
2023-022**

Presented by E. Peter McNamara

The 2022 final audit report and governance letter reviewed. They will be sent to the Full Board Members.

VII. FINANCIAL

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT AND MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

**Information
2023-023**

Presented by Sam Mel-Chan

The Quarterly Financial Report and the LAIF/CAMP Account Statements as of September 30, 2023 and the Monthly Financial Review as of October 31, 2023 were reviewed.

The net cash flow position at the end of December 31, 2023 is estimated to be approximately \$11.8M.

Peter McNamara shared there have been several high-cost claims over the past several months. PACE Management will continue to monitor them.

ANTHEM UPDATE

**Information
2023-024**

Presented by Emma Rodriguez

The October 2023 Anthem utilization report was reviewed. There are 15 high claims over \$100k through October 2023, the same as in 2022.

Anthem network updates were reviewed. Anthem reached an agreement with Salinas Valley Hospital after terminating August 1, 2023. An agreement was reached retroactively back to August 1, 2023. Negotiations still continue with Trinity Health in the Fresno area; the termination date has been extended through January 1, 2024. The UC Health system was scheduled to terminate December 31, 2023 and was extended to March 1, 2024.

ANCILLARY UPDATES

**Information
2023-025**

Presented by Melissa King

The LiveHealth Online utilization report through October 2023 was reviewed. Medical and Behavioral Health visits are fewer in 2023 than 2022.

The EmpiRx October 2023 utilization report was reviewed. With the implementation of cost containment programs implemented in 2022, specialty drug spend was reduced from 64% of total drug spend in 2022 to 36% of total drug spend in 2023.

EMPIRX COST CONTAINMENT PROGRAMS UPDATE

**Action
2023-026**

Presented by Melissa King

The Board heard a report on the change in weight loss medication restriction protocols, mandatory mail order for maintenance medication and biosimilar information cost containment program options.

Patients are required to go through step therapy (such as a biosimilar or weight loss program) prior to being prescribed a GLP-1 Receptor Agonist weight loss medication. There are 31 members currently utilizing weight loss medications. The EC decided to monitor usage and cost over the next 6 – 12 months before taking action to modify the clinical protocols. Any future decision to implement changes in clinical protocols would include grandfathering in members currently using weight loss medication at the current requirements.

The Mandatory Mail for non-specialty drugs program was reviewed including an educational flyer and letter designed for members. A grace period would be established for members to procure a new prescription for the mail order program. There would be cost savings to the plan and to the member since mail order is 2x copay for three months rather than 3x for three months retail. A Mandatory Mail Order program for specialty drugs was implemented in 2022. PACE Management recommended approving and implementing a mandatory mail order for non-specialty/maintenance medications.

Motion to table taking action on the mandatory mail order for non-specialty medications until a future meeting: 1. Kim Turner and 2. Nocona Soboleski. Motion unanimously approved by the Full Board.

WELLNESS UPDATES

Information

Presented by Dayna Gowan

2023-027

The 2023 Wellness program ended on November 15, 2023 with 2800 eligible with 182 participants (6%) with 56 reaching the highest reward level of \$150. There were 29 agencies participating out of 33 agencies. The Walktober Challenge statics were reviewed. The top two agencies for number of participants and top two agencies for number of steps will receive a Healthy Snack Box for their agency.

The 2024 Wellness Program Recommendations approved by the Executive Committee at the December 6, 2023 Meeting were reviewed. Updates include an increase in max rewards from \$150 to \$175 with more challenging activities earning more points per activity. The biometric screening is no longer required. If a biometric screening is not submitted, a member can still earn awards. If a biometric screening is not submitted in order to achieve the maximum award, the member will need to complete all other wellness activities to do so.

GROUP VOLUNTARY MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

Information

Presented by Melissa King

2023-028

The Board heard on the marketing with RetireeFirst for a Group Voluntary Medicare Advantage Program. Retiree data from nine agencies for under 200 retirees was received when requested after the August Full Board Meeting. although RetireeFirst indicated the more data on retirees to be completed, rates would be better. The EC recommended the data outreach be postponed until early 2024 to be brought to the FB in the spring.

GROUP VOLUNTARY LONG TERM CARE PROGRAM

Action

Presented by E. Peter McNamara and Melissa King

2023-029

The Board heard and discuss marketing results for a possible Group Voluntary Long Term Care program solution offered through PACE.

The EC recommended waiting until the task force presents its recommendations on 12/14/23 and when/if the state legislature proceeds with. Bring to the FB in the spring, should there be notable action on this item in the state legislature process.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

GAG CLAUSE PROHIBITION COMPLIANCE REPORTING

Information

Presented by Melissa King

2023-030

The gag clause prohibition compliance attestation requirements, which were sent to all PACE groups on 12/7 /23, were reviewed. However, those groups with self-funded Anthem plans need to attest compliance for their EmpiRx plan. Attestation of EmpiRx’s compliance must be completed by all PACE agencies who have self-funded plans with EmpiRx pharmacy coverage. PACE Management provide step by step directions in the 12/7 email. Anthem and Kaiser are attesting on behalf of their plans for all PACE groups.

PACE NEW MEMBER ACTIVITY

Information

Presented by Christine Hough

2023-031

There have been 3 requests for quotation since the last Board Meeting:

1. Area Housing Authority for County of Ventura – 58 employees with 9 waivers and age rated plans. Christine Hough issued a quote; however, the Anthem HMO rates were not competitive.
2. City of Chowchilla – 49 employees - based on current plans being age rated and a young demographic, Christine Hough was unable to provide competitive rates and declined to quote.
3. Anderson Valley USD – 66 employees – currently have benefits through Mendocino County Office of Education’s Staywell JPA. Due to an older demographic, Christine Hough was unable to provide competitive rates and declined to quote.

Note: Item 2023-032 Election of Officers was discussed after Item 2023-020 as approved by the Full Board.

2024 MEETING CALENDAR

Information

Presented by E. Peter McNamara

2023-033

The 2024 PACE Executive Committee and Full Board Meetings calendar approved by the Executive Committee was reviewed and after discussion with the Full Board, the February Executive Committee Meeting will be moved to March 27, 2024, the April Executive Committee Meeting will be moved to May 29, 2024 and the April Full Board Meeting will be moved to May 30, 2024.

IX. INFORMATION

MEMBER COMMENTS

Information

There were no member comments.

MANAGER COMMENTS

Information

An updated 2024 calendar will be sent to the Full Board.

X. AGENDA ITEMS NEXT MEETING

Information

Members and others may suggest items for consideration at the next meeting which will be scheduled for May 30, 2024 via Zoom.

- Quarterly Financial Report, Anthem update, Ancillary updates, New Member Activity

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm