



## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TRUST MINUTES

March 21, 2023

---

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Centre County Employee Benefits Trust was held on March 21, 2023, in Room 146 of the Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Trustees present were Commissioner Mark Higgins (Chair), Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Steven Dershem (via phone), County Administrator/Chief Clerk John Franek, and Controller Jason Moser. Also, in attendance were, Human Resources Director Kristen Simkins, Employee Benefits Analyst Heather Bruss, Director Budget/Finance Richard Killian, Deputy County Administrator Natalie Corman, Benecon Representative Kathy Cook, Capital Representatives Fred Briggs, Robert Muscalus, Ron Hicks, and Dana Wooley (via phone).

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The meeting was called to order at 2:24 p.m. by Commissioner Mark Higgins (Chair).

### III. MEETING MINUTES:

- a. A motion was made by Controller Jason Moser to approve the minutes for the December 1, 2022, EBT meeting. Motion seconded County Administrator/Chief Clerk John Franek. Commissioner Amber Concepcion abstained due to her not being present at the meeting.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

### V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Meeting was handed over to Benecon representative Kathy Cook. A handout was given to all attendees. Ms. Cook stated this meeting was for our yearly annual claims review. Capital representative Fred Briggs went on to introduce Dr. Robert Muscalus and let us know that Dana Wooley would be listening on the phone to answer questions. Mr. Muscalus stated that we would be going over the handout, which is about the claims for 2022. Mr. Muscalus stated the County did not have a very good year for medical claims, that there was a 43.9% increase in claims. He did state the medical spend is over all good, as it shows employees are utilizing their doctors. The emergency room claims have gone up significantly. Mr. Muscalus recommends encouraging employees to use primary doctors, Urgent Care, VirtualCare, and Telehealth. Pharmacy claims increased 132.2%. County employees are doing very good with preventive exams. Capital representative Ron Hicks proceeded to go over

the pharmacy review. Claims are about normal. He recommends continuing to encourage the use of generic prescriptions. The County is above average for generic usage. The County is below average with specialty prescriptions, which is very good. Overall, the County's claims did increase in 2022, but it was to be expected due to the increase in utilization from the Covid pandemic. Capital encouraged the continued use of the Wellness programs, promoting preventative care, encouraging engagement with the employees with care management, and the two diabetes programs.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. NEXT MEETING

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Controller Jason Moser adjourned the Employee Benefits Trust Meeting at 4:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Amber Concepcion and unanimously approved.

Submitted By:  
Heather Bruss