



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TRUST MINUTES

March 29, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Centre County Employee Benefits Trust was held on March 29, 2022, in Room 146 of the Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Trustees present were Commissioner Mark Higgins (Chair), Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Steven Dershem, County Administrator/Chief Clerk Margaret Gray, and Controller Jason Moser. Also, in attendance were Human Resources Director Kristen Simkins, (via Teams) Employee Benefits Analyst Heather Bruss, (via Teams) Auditor/Accountant Travis Walker, (via Teams) Benecon Representative Kathy Cook, and (via Teams) Capital Representatives Fred Briggs, Dr. Muscalus, and Ronald Hicks.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Commissioner Mark Higgins (Chair).

III. MEETING MINUTES:

- a. A motion was made by County Administrator/Chief Clerk Margaret Gray to approve the minutes for the October 28, 2021 EBT meeting. Motion seconded Commissioner Michael Pipe and unanimously approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. The meeting was handed over to Fred Briggs Senior Accounts Representative. Mr. Briggs introduced Dr. Musalus Clinical Sales Consultant, Ronald Hicks Pharmacy Benefits Consultant, and Nicole Castle Senior Health Education Consultant. He stated the report that they are going over shows the claims that were incurred December 2020 through January 2022. Dr. Musalus mentioned a decrease in membership but that medical cost has gone up 17.4%. These increases had a big difference due to the high decrease in 2020 due to Covid. All medical services have gone up and this is normal as people are utilizing the medical benefit that dropped during the pandemic. Mr. Hicks went over the pharmacy costs. Utilization of medication have gone up; this is to be expected. He then went over the top drivers of pharmacy costs. It is recommended to continue to educate and encourage employees to utilize independent labs, independent surgical centers, generic prescriptions, and attend

preventative appointments. It was encouraged that the County could offer some incentive programs like gift cards for wellness visits or paying for gym memberships etc. Mr. Briggs recommended the County to consider adding a program for Diabetes reversal called Verta. The problems with Quest labs that employees have been having were discussed. Benecon Representative Kathy Cook said she would reach out to her Quest contacts.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. NEXT MEETING

- a. April 14, 2022

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Commissioner Mark Higgins adjourned the Employee Benefits Trust Meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Submitted By:

Heather Bruss