



Meeting Minutes | Health Care Policy Committee

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 | 9:30 a.m.

202 Arbor Lake Dr., Columbia, SC 29223 | First Floor Conference Room

Minutes Approved October 5, 2022

Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: PEBA Board Chairman Joe “Rocky” Pearce, and Committee Chairman, Alex Shissias.

Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Virtual Means: Mr. John Sowards

Board Members Absent: Mr. Calvin Elam

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: Peggy Boykin, Robby Brown, Sarah Corbett, James Manning, Heather Muller, Laura Smoak, Rob Tester, Travis Turner, Stephen Van Camp, and Justin Werner from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Jessie Epting, Scott Stewart, and Carmen Wilson from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina; and Dr. David Louder from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Virtual Means: Amber Carter from PEBA.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Alex Shissias called the PEBA Health Care Policy Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and stated that the public meeting notice was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2022

PEBA Board Chairman Rocky Pearce made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. John Sowards, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2022, Committee meeting.

III. 2023 State Health Plan Approval of Benefits and Contributions

Mr. Rob Tester, Insurance Policy Director, advised that State Health Plan (SHP) employer contribution rates for Plan Year 2023 will increase 18.1 percent. Employee contribution rates for participants of the SHP will remain the same as in Plan Year 2022.

Mr. Tester noted SHP program changes that will begin effective January 1, 2023, and stated that there will be additional patient cost sharing that corresponds with funding in the Appropriations Bill, and is permissible to retain Grandfathered status under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mr. Tester outlined the changes to the 2023 deductible, coinsurance maximum, and copayment amounts.

Mr. Tester also stated that since plan year 2019, the SHP includes one adult well visit in covered years based on age intervals and is subject to regular patient cost sharing in covered years. Effective January 1, 2023, the SHP will cover adult well visits annually with no patient cost sharing for all SHP primary adult members.

PEBA Board Chairman Pearce made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Sowards, and passed unanimously, to recommend that the PEBA Board approve the State Health Plan Benefits and Contributions for Plan Year 2023 as presented.

IV. MUSC Plan Update

In this annual review of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health Plan, Mr. Tester discussed the latest financial performance, and stated that the 2021 financial performance for both the SHP and the MUSC Health Plan deteriorated considerably due to COVID-19.

Dr. Dave Louder, Executive Director of the MUSC Health Alliance, presented the Plan's 2021 quality metrics, addressed performance gaps, and discussed the overall status of the MUSC plan.

Dr. Louder stated that MUSC is working to improve the health care of South Carolinians across the entire state by addressing inequity in access and care delivery; identifying solutions to address Social Determinants of Health; partnering with local providers to have a presence in every county in SC; and partnering with other SC systems to increase telehealth and stroke centers.

Dr. Louder concluded his presentation by reviewing the growth of the MUSC Health Plan and discussing how MUSC Health will address future healthcare delivery in underserved areas of the state through traditional and innovative delivery platforms.

V. Wondr Health Annual Update

PEBA introduced weight management program Naturally Slim (now known as Wondr Health) to its membership in September 2018. Ms. Laura Smoak, Analytics & Health Initiatives Director, stated that Naturally Slim became Wondr in 2021, and moved to a more holistic approach to good health. Wondr is a year-long program which has three stages including skill building, reinforcement, and maintenance. Participants complete an eating and activity behavior survey to better tailor the core curriculum to the participant. Ms. Smoak advised that along with the core curriculum there are personalized physical activity and personalized eating behavior strategies designed to help each participant individually. Ms. Smoak concluded by reviewing program testimonials by PEBA participants.

Mr. Tester discussed findings from a statistical analysis of participant outcomes. Mr. Tester stated that participants include obese patients, as well as obese and diabetic patients, and those who are obese and diabetic, that also have elevated lipids and hypertensive patients.

Ms. Smoak advised that Wondr is part of a suite of programs that the Plan offers members to improve health outcomes. Investing in Wondr has proven to be a positive resource for members to build science-based skills that go beyond just weight management. For members with obesity related conditions, these long-lasting health improvement skills that focus on behavioral changes may help reduce cost in the future.

VI. Old Business/Director's Report

Ms. Boykin advised that she would provide the Director's Report at the full Board meeting.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon a motion by PEBA Board Chairman Pearce, which was seconded by Mr. Sowards, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.