

AFFORDABLE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE (AHC) COMMITTEE MINUTES
County Board Room, Oneida County Courthouse
September 24, 2020 11:00 a.m.

AHC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Hintz – Chair, Billy Fried – Vice Chair (County Board); Lisa Charbarneau (LRES); Tracy Hartman (County Clerk); Erin Bjorkman (Sheriff’s Office); Darcy Smith (Finance)

ALSO PRESENT: Jenni Lueneburg (LRES); Brian Erdmann (Priority Medical Partners)

CALL TO ORDER AND CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hintz called the AHC Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. in the County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. The meeting has been properly posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law, and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Charbarneau to approve today’s agenda. Second by Fried. All Committee members present voting ‘Aye’. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bjorkman to approve the minutes of August 27th, September 11th and September 17th. Second by Charbarneau. All Committee members present voting ‘Aye’. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public present for comments.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: NEAR SITE CLINIC/DIRECT PAY AND DIRECT PRIMARY CARE (DPC)/FREE MARKET MEDICAL

Hintz introduced Dr. Brian Erdmann of PMP (Priority Medical Partners), noting that PMP is the county’s Near-site Clinic for the group health plan. Erdmann says his purpose of speaking to the group is to provide more information regarding Free Market Medical options, which could provide valuable cost savings to the county group health plan. Fried summarized the AHC Committee’s actions to this point regarding bidding out the 2021 health plan and looking at various health plan design changes, with the main goal is to reduce the complexity and costs of the county health plan. Erdmann says the county will need to think “outside the box” in coming up with creative solutions to implement the changes he is proposing but he feels it can be done. Erdmann discussed the current costs of health insurance and the debilitating financial effects it’s having on the middle and lower class, along with businesses. Erdmann discussed how PPO Networks work and the costs it adds to the county’s plan, even with his low cost near-site option in place. Erdmann would like to see the county adopt his High Functioning Health Plan model and provided in-depth discussion on how the plan works. Erdmann also discussed the three billing options his clinic offers including the direct primary care option, pay-per-visit option and traditional insurance billing. Erdmann also discussed referenced based pricing which eliminates provider networks and instead pays for services based on a set percentage above Medicare pricing; examples given. Overall, Erdmann would like to see Oneida County (as a big employer in the area) move to the Free Market Medical model and set a precedent to other employers on what affordable, patient-friendly healthcare can look like. Fried provided comments on the presentation and discussed the county’s challenges if we moved to a Free Market Medical model, including limited accessibility to providers and the need for extensive travel to utilize many of the Free Market Medical services. Erdmann recognized the challenges and feels educating employees on their options to either pay more for certain local services or pick more affordable options that may require travel will cost the county nothing and will give employees choices in their healthcare. Discussion held on Pharmacy

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: NEAR SITE CLINIC/DIRECT PAY AND DIRECT PRIMARY CARE (DPC)/FREE MARKET MEDICAL (continued)

Benefit Managers and prescription drug costs. Erdmann discussed Exemplar who could serve as a full-service insurance administrator if the county opted to utilize the Free Market Medical model. Erdmann thanked the Committee for listening and hopes to continue working with the county to move towards a Free Market Medical model.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Discussion held regarding the next steps for the Committee once bids are gathered next week. Charbarneau feels the Free Market Medical model is an excellent model but has big concerns regarding the major travel required in order to access many of the Free Market providers. Fried agrees that the model is excellent but moving to the Free Market model in the near future will prove to be difficult. Hartman agreed with Fried and feels given the short deadlines for the 2021 plan, the Free Market model may not be feasible in the coming year but the Committee should continue to look at the option for future health plan years. Fried would like Charbarneau to work on gathering a quote from Exemplar; Charbarneau says she has already started looking into pricing. Discussion held on broker fees and the upcoming bids meeting with the consultant, Jacob Syndergaard on September 28th. Charbarneau feels this Committee should strive to make some decisions at the September 28th meeting in order to have information for the LRES Committee regarding what to budget for health insurance in the 2021 budget.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Monday, September 28, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Diversified Benefit Services
Comparison data from other counties

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public present for comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Hintz announced the adjournment of the AHC Committee meeting at 2:26 p.m.

/s/Dave Hintz
Dave Hintz, Chairman

10-05-2020
Date

/s/Jenni Lueneburg
Jenni Lueneburg, Committee Secretary

10-05-2020
Date