

MINUTES

**POLICY AND PLANNING BOARD MEETING
OFFICE OF GROUP BENEFITS**

December 3, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hubert Lincecum, vice chairman, called the meeting of the Policy and Planning Board to order.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Dr. Merline Broussard
Dr. James Calvin
Mr. Charles Castaing
Dr. Barbara Cicardo
Mr. Russell Culotta
Mr. Jim Donleon
Mr. Charles Lazare
Mr. James Lee
Mr. Hubert Lincecum
Representative Tank Powell
Mr. William Quinlan
Mr. Jackie Self

Members Absent

Mr. James LeBlanc
Mr. John Warner Smith
Senator Tom Schedler
Mr. Aubrey Temple

Roll call indicated 12 board members present, representing a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2003 BOARD MEETING

The minutes of the October 8, 2003 Board meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Lincecum, seconded by Dr. Broussard, to accept the minutes as presented. There being no objection, the minutes were approved.

Mr. Lincecum welcomed Mr. Jim Donelon to the board. Mr. Donelon is replacing Mr. Richard O'Shee as the designee of the Commissioner of Insurance on the OGB Policy and Planning Board.

Mr. Lincecum stated that he received information that the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board employees will see a premium increase of approximately 36 percent to 58.3 percent increase next year.

FY 2004-05 PLAN OF BENEFITS

Mr. Wall reported that the premium increase for OGB would be approximately 15 to 20 percent next year. Mr. Wall also reported that Ochsner is requesting a 15 percent premium increase and Vantage is asking for a 9 percent premium increase for FY 2004-05.

Mr. Wall reviewed with the Board the following recommendations for FY 2004-05 Plan of Benefits that were approved by the OGB Policy and Planning Board and will be sent to the Legislative Oversight Committee in a report.

➤ **Wild Card Option**

Discontinue wild card option for FY 2004-05 plan year.

This change would be contingent upon no disruptions occurring during Annual Enrollment next year.

➤ **MCO Lifetime Maximum Benefit**

Institute a \$1 million lifetime maximum benefit for the MCO.

➤ **Dependent Eligibility**

Permit dependents to participate until age 25 without restriction.

*Mr. Wall explained that this change will **not** be implemented due the negative cost implication.*

➤ **OGB Study Commission**

Recommendation from the OGB Policy and Planning Board that an OGB Study Commission be formed of the OGB Policy and Planning Board members to study new and innovate ways to deliver health care to state employees and other governmental agencies and entities, with a request for a budget of \$150,000 for the study commission.

Mr. Wall asked the Board if they would like Ms. Sharon Runyan, OGB's public information director, to prepare a draft report for the Board's approval to the Legislative Oversight Committee reporting the proposed changes of benefits. The Board was agreeable to this.

MEDICARE REFORM AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Mr. Wall presented the Board with an article concerning the Medicare Reform and Prescription Drug Coverage (Medicare "Part D") for eligible Medicare enrollees. Mr. Wall explained that Congress has passed this bill and the President has announced his intention to sign the bill into law. Mr. Wall stated that it is unsure how this new law will affect the OGB program and its members. Mr. Wall recommended the possibility of hiring a firm to give OGB expert advice in order to implement any rules and regulations that this new may law require.

CEO REPORTS

Mr. Wall presented for informational purposes the report, "Where the Money Goes," which gives an overview of claims and cost.

OLD BUSINESS

Rep. Powell introduced his legislative assistant, Ms. Lauri Irion to the OGB Policy and Planning Board members.

Morbid Obesity

Rep. Powell asked about the latest information on the morbid obesity pilot program. Mr. Wall stated that the contract has been finalized with LSU and that the names of members requesting consideration for the pilot program have been transferred to LSU, and the screening process is underway in New Orleans. Rep. Powell asked if all of the interested members will get personal interviews. Mr. Wall stated he doubts that all members would get personal interviews, but that at some time in the screening process there may be personal interviews done.

Optional Life Insurance

Rep. Powell asked for an update on the optional life insurance. Mr. Wall explained that the rates will increase 10 percent on January 1, 2004. He explained that some agencies did not provide the optional life insurance information to their employees and did not think it was cost-effective to make the changes in their payroll systems. Rep. Powell asked if the agencies had the right to deny employees the option to participate. Mr. Wall stated that at this time they do. Rep. Powell stated that the agencies did a real injustice to the employees of those agencies that chose not to participate. Mr. Wall stated effective January 1, 2004, each agency will be required to appoint a liaison with Group Benefits so that OGB has a responsible single point of contact.

Mayo Clinic Website

Mr. Wall stated that OGB's website has a link to the Mayo Health Clinic's proprietary website for OGB's plan members providing a wealth of health care information on chronic health conditions. In April during annual enrollment Mayo will make available to OGB plan members its Health Risk Assessment. This is an interactive web tool which allows plan members to enter information regarding any condition they may have and it will give them a standardized health risk assessment. OGB will also get aggregated data regarding health status of OGB plan members, which will help guide OGB in directing some of our wellness efforts in the future.

Disease Management

Mr. Wall reported that OGB will finalize the selection of the disease management contractor. The disease management contractor will focus on heart disease, asthma, and diabetes. They will work with plan members and providers that provide care to these plan members to be sure they get the appropriate level of care for their condition, and will, work on plan member education on chronic conditions. In the long term it will improve the level of care that plan members receive and potentially reduce cost to the program. This is not managed care, because this will be on a voluntary basis for plan members.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Cicardo stated that she had received correspondence from a plan member asking if the program is considering covering unmarried cohabitating partners as dependents. The plan member is asking if the Board would consider extending coverage to domestic partnerships. Rep. Powell stated that until the State of Louisiana recognizes those types of relationships the Board should not address it.

Mr. Benoit reported that the public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Louisiana State Police Training Academy Auditorium located on Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA . Mr. Wall suggested that the Board schedule the next OGB Policy and Planning Board meeting for Wednesday, January 7, 2004.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Rick Ramsey, LSU Staff Senate, addressed the Board asking if the programs could be required to notify participants when providers drop out of programs. Mr. Lincecum stated that OGB advises plan members that before making an appointment with any provider that they check with the doctor's office to be sure it is still a contracted provider with their insurance plan. Mr. Ramsey also stated that plan members are concerned about the wild card option because that some members do pick a certain plan on the basis of what providers are in what plan, and this causes plan members problems when providers drop out of a plan.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Dr. Cicardo, to adjourn. With no opposition, the motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Aubrey Temple, Chairman