

MINUTES

POLICY AND PLANNING BOARD MEETING OFFICE OF GROUP BENEFITS

February 8, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Aubrey Temple, chairman, called the meeting of the Policy and Planning Board to order.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Dr. Merline Broussard
Dr. James Calvin
Mr. Russell Culotta
Mr. James Donelon
Mr. Charles Lazare
Mr. James Lee
Mr. Hubert Lincecum
Mr. William Quinlan
Mr. Aubrey Temple

Members Absent

Mr. Mark Brown
Sen. James David Cain
Dr. Barbara Cicardo
Mr. Buford Huckleberry
Mr. Jimmy LeBlanc
Rep. Tank Powell
Mr. Jackie Self

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2005 BOARD MEETING

The minutes of the November 7, 2005 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Lincecum to accept the minutes as presented. There being no objections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Temple recognized and congratulated Mr. Jim Donelon on becoming the new Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance and thanked him for serving on the OGB Policy and Planning Board. Mr. Donelon thanked the board and announced his replacement. Mr. Scott Kipper, Deputy Commissioner in the Office of Health Insurance at the Department of Insurance (DOI) will serve as his designee on the board. Mr. Kipper has been with DOI since just after hurricane Katrina in September 2005.

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Temple recognized Ms. Brenda St. Romain. Ms. St. Romain will be acting chief executive officer (CEO) until the new CEO starts.

Mr. Temple thanked the Division of Administration for allowing the Board to participate in the interviewing process for selecting the new CEO of the Office of Group Benefits. The process went very well, and OGB is fortunate to have gotten a person with the experience and understanding of the importance of the job. The new CEO for Office of Group Benefits is Tommy Teague who is from Louisiana and previously worked at Group Benefits before leaving the state. Mr. Temple asked Mr. Lincecum to talk about Mr. Teague because of their prior working relationship. Mr. Lincecum stated that it will be nice to have Mr. Teague back at OGB. Mr. Teague worked as the general counsel for OGB, assigned by the Attorney General's Office to represent OGB in all legal matters. He later held the positions of deputy director and acting executive director of the program. Mr. Teague left OGB and became the general counsel for the Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund. He then became the acting executive director of the Pennsylvania program, and later was named the executive director, and has served in that position until the present time. He will officially takeover as the CEO of OGB on March 1, 2006. Mr. Lincecum thanked Mr. Temple, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Jerry Luke LeBlanc for recognizing Mr. Teague's credentials, experience, and expertise.

Mr. Lincecum reached Mr. Teague via conference telephone. Mr. Teague stated that he would start on March 1, 2006 and he and his wife were in the process of making arrangements to move. He stated that he looked forward to moving back and getting to work and in the interim that Mr. Lincecum was keeping him abreast of things.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Temple asked when the premium rates for 2006-07 plan year will need to be promulgated. Ms. St. Romain stated that Millman will provide an estimate in mid-February, and since Humana will now be self-insured rather than fully insured their rates will need to be included. The final rate projections should be ready by the first of March and will be sent to Division of Administration for approval. Mr. Temple asked about the timeline for the final rates that the division decides to go

with. Mr. Lincecum stated that the actuary waits as long as possible so that they have as much claims experience as possible to use for the rates.

Mr. Temple asked if there were problems with services in the areas that had damage from the hurricanes. Mr. Lincecum stated that the actions taken by the program right after hurricane Katrina helped minimize many problems that plan members would have. Some of these changes are still in effect because many plan members are still outside of their home areas.

Newsletters

Mr. Lincecum presented for informational purposes newsletters that OGB has sent out in the last several months keeping plan members and providers updated. The "Special Information for OGB Retirees" newsletter is dedicated to the retirees that are affected by the Medicare Part D program and has a list of Medicare Part D meeting dates and times, questions and answers, and a list of several websites that retirees can access for more information.

The next newsletter "Provider Notes" is sent out to all of OGB's providers providing them with updates that OGB is working on. Last is the newsletter "For Your Benefit", the newsletter sent out to all plan members on a quarterly basis. This keeps our plan members informed of any updates and additional information they can use to help in understanding their claims.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lincecum introduced and welcomed Dr. G. Tipton McKnight who has returned to serve as OGB's Medical Director.

Legislation Update

Mr. Lincecum reported that there were several bills in the special legislative session that would affect OGB. OGB staff has been working on providing fiscal impact information concerning these bills to the Legislature. Mr. Benoit, OGB special counsel, is currently at the legislature testifying on legislation that will directly affect OGB. The main content of the bills are to allow school boards that are not presently in the Program and are located in the hurricane affected areas to do two things:

1. To come into the Program exempt from the vesting law; and
2. Not be risk rated. Under current law, when an entity comes into the OGB program it is risk rated based on its prior claims experience.

The cost of this would be very large for OGB for these bills and Mr. Benoit will be conveying this to the legislative committees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No request for public comments.

ADJOURN

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

Mr. Aubrey Temple, Chairman