



**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION  
**OFFICE OF GROUP BENEFITS**



**MINUTES**

**OGB ESTIMATING CONFERENCE**

**May 8, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**Louisiana Purchase Room  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Estimating Conference Roll Call

Mr. Sam Blount	Present
Mr. Manfredo Dix	Present
Ms. Stephanie Little	Present
Mr. Chas Nichols	Present
Mr. Robert Schneckenburger	Present
- II. Appointment to Estimating Conference, Chas Nichols
  - a. Oath of Office – Ms. Stephanie Little made a motion to amend the agenda to issue the oath of office to all estimating conference members. Mr. Chas Nichols seconded the motion. The Estimating Conference approved the motion unanimously.
  - b. Mrs. Angela McCulloch, an attorney with the Office of General Counsel, administered the Oath of Office to the Estimating Conference Members
- III. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Overview
  - a. Mrs. Chauntiel Gay, Group Benefits Accountant and OGB's HIPAA Privacy Officer, provided an overview of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and informed the Board members of what to do and not do if an OGB plan member contacts them.
- IV. Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2023, Joint Estimating Conference and Policy & Planning Board meeting.
  - a. Mr. Sam Blount made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2023, Joint Estimating Conference and Policy & Planning Board Meeting. Mr.

Robert Schneckenburger seconded the motion. The Estimating Conference approved the motion unanimously.

V. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment.

VI. Introduction to OGB

- a. Mr. Heath Williams, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for OGB, provided an overview of OGB, informing the Estimating Conference that OGB is a state agency, authorized by statute to provide health and life benefit programs to state employees, retirees, and their dependents.

VII. Procurement Matters – Contract Amendments

- a. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) Amendment #3 – Mr. Williams explained that this Amendment would extend the BCBSLA contract for an additional two years. OGB’s Compliance Officer, Mrs. Molly Collier, informed the Estimating Conference that the Amendment would have to go to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) for approval because it is required by the Procurement Code.

- b. Caremark Amendment #2

- i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that under the previous administration the discount from the average wholesale price (AWP) increased each year. This Amendment would hold the AWP from the first year of the Contract steady and there would be no impact to the Louisiana Independent Pharmacy Association (LIPA). This Amendment will keep the AWP discount steady to maintain network adequacy.

- c. TASC Amendment #1

- i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that this Amendment would adjust the Frequency of Contractor response to report email bouncebacks. It also will change the language related to the COBRA notice from monthly to yearly.

- d. TASC Amendment #2

- i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that this amendment would require TASC to mail annual enrollment materials. It would also remove a \$50,000 implementation credit.

VIII. Procurement Matters – Emergency Contract

- a. Access Health, Incorporated

- i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that this Emergency Contract would extend the current services to December 31, 2024, to match the calendar year. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for a new contract for these services to begin January 1, 2025.

1. Mr. Nichols made a motion to forward the information to the OGB Policy & Planning Board. Mr. Schneckenburger seconded the motion. The Estimating Conference approved the motion unanimously.

IX. Procurement Matters – Updates

- a. Fully-Insured Medicare Advantage Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Emergency Contracts
  - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that these Emergency Contracts would extend the current contracts through December 31, 2025. This is due to changes mandated by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the potential for those changes to have a negative impact.
  - ii. OGB will issue an RFP for new contracts once OGB has more information about the impact of the IRA.
- b. Group Term Life Insurance Contract
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Estimating Conference that the contract was awarded to Prudential. However, MetLife filed an appeal. The appeal was denied and OGB is in final contract negotiations with Prudential. The Contract should be effective January 1, 2025.
- c. Primary Care Network RFP
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Estimating Conference that an RFP was issued on April 20, 2024. Proposals are due to OGB by June 11, 2024. The contract term will be January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.
- d. Fully-Insured Commercial HMO RFP
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Estimating Conference that state statute requires the issuance of an RFP for a Fully-Insured HMO health plan that is domiciled within Louisiana. OGB is not expecting any bidders.
- e. Prescription Care Network (Near Real-Time Monitoring )
  - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that this contract would supply real-time monitoring of the PBM to ensure proper claims adjudication. Negotiations are underway with the vendor.
- f. Buck Amendment (Mental Health Parity Analysis)
  - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that this amendment would amend the contract to compare mental health coverage to medical and surgical benefits.
- g. Extend Health Contract Extension
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Estimating Conference that this Amendment would extend the Contract for one additional year through December 31, 2025.
- h. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Amendment #4 (No Surprise Billing)

- i. Mr. Williams explained to the Estimating Conference that this Amendment details the requirements of BCBSLA's responsibilities as it relates to the No Surprise Billing Act.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Ms. Stephanie Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Blount seconded the motion. The Estimating Conference approved the motion unanimously.

Approved by the Estimating Conference: \_\_\_\_\_



Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

8/8/24