

**Owning Your Own Health Committee  
Minutes – Approved  
May 24, 2017  
Legislature Chambers**

Present: Ted Schiele, Jackie Kippola, Beverly Chin; Don Barber

**Call to Order**

Mr. Schiele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Changes to the Agenda**

A discussion of colorectal screening was added to the agenda.

**Approval of April 26, 2017 Minutes**

The minutes of the April 26, 2017 were approved as submitted.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Barber reported on the educational retreat that was held on May 10<sup>th</sup> and provided copies of the PowerPoint slides from the presentation. He also provided copies of the 2016 annual report. He reported the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design is currently discussing Telemedicine.

He said he and Mr. Schiele attended the annual retreat Excellus has for the public sector and where it was stated there that without someone pushing Telemedicine from the top there is a participation rate of approximately 2%. Ms. Chin said Dr. Stallone will be attending the next meeting of the Health Planning Council to speak about Telemedicine. She said it could be a controversial subject with certain doctors because of the potential of having someone who is under their care go somewhere else and not relay their treatment to them. Mr. Schiele said he thinks this could get people who don't have a doctor to get medical care. He said there are many people who don't get any regular care and this provides another option. Ms. Chin said she sees this as an option for those people who have an episodic health event who won't leave work to receive care. Mr. Schiele said it is always valuable to provide another option for people to receive care. Mr. Barber said Excellus has been promoting this for its employees and Dr. Stallone spoke of this at a community meeting and indicated CAP is considering creating its own telemedicine platform which would provide people within the CAP area a standard place to call. Mr. Barber said if the cost to the Consortium to offer this program would be approximately \$20,000 annually at \$.65 per contract. Mr. Schiele said most of the Telemedicine visits are done by phone call and in the registration program introduces someone to the system.

Mr. Barber provided highlights from the Excellus utilization report that was presented to the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design:

- 13% increase in spend for 2016 over 2015. Because 2015 was so much lower than budgeted, this increase brings the Consortium into line with what was expected.
- 21% of the population incurred 80% of the plan's cost;
- There was a 47% increase in the number of claimants over \$100,000 from 17 in 2015 to 25;
- Of the 2,350 members, 2,127 received an annual physical ~~and only~~ in other words 10% of the population did not have any claim activity.

Ms. Kippola asked if there would be a focus on trying to reduce the number of large loss cases. Mr. Schiele said the Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design heard from an Excellus physician about those cases and he explained once they get to that level the costs are hard to control due to the seriousness and complexity of the cases.

Mr. Barber said the Audit and Finance Committee will be looking at preliminary budget figures for 2018 at its next month and noted that medical claims and prescription drug expenses are running significantly under budget for 2017. Mr. Schiele said he thinks it is possible the six patients who received the expensive treatment for hepatitis had been waiting for the medication to become available and because it is a one-time treatment this would explain why expenses have gone down since last year and not expected to rise again at the same level.

Mr. Barber reported he met with benefit clerks and they have sent information to employees and retirees describing CanaRx. It was unclear whether the information was disseminated to County employees; however, Mr. Barber said he has received questions from County retirees who received the information. In early June ProAct will be sending information to subscribers who are taking a medication that would qualify for CanaRx and encouraging them to enroll in the voluntary program.

#### Website Change

Ms. Pottorff said Mr. Schiele had asked at a previous meeting that options be explored to change the Consortium's webpage that would give it its own identify rather than be off of the Tompkins County template as there are now 28 municipalities both in and outside of the County. Discover eGov, the County's website host, was asked for a quote and responded for a one-time cost of \$750 they can provide the Consortium with a new background that would be applied to all of the Consortium's webpages. Mr. Schiele said he would also like to explore getting a new domain name for the Consortium and said domain names are very inexpensive. A different domain name will make it easier to access the Consortium's website as they will not have to go through the County's site. He said he would like to see a change in the layout of the content, including having it more modern and mobile-friendly. It was the consensus of those present that it is well worth the small cost to move this forward. Mr. Barber will present the Board of Directors with this information and ask for permission to move forward.

Mr. Schiele said he has made contact with Jim Blizzard who works with the County's Public Information Program about doing short informational and instructional videos for the Consortium. There was a brief discussion of how this cost would be paid for by the Consortium. Ms. Pottorff said Jim Blizzard is an employee of Cooperative Extension who works for the Public information Program. Mr. Blizzard will be contacted to get information on the scope of work including how much work and time would be involved in doing these videos (three scripted two-minute videos for example) and how this service would be paid for.

#### **Making the Case for Consortium-wide Wellness Program**

Mr. Barber said since the last meeting he has outlined items in the document he prepared entitled "Making the Case for Consortium-wide Wellness Program" and has also found someone who is a writer and who will take it from the general public's perspective and put it into a more readable background for the Committee to review at the next meeting. The goal is for this Committee to support language that can be taken to other committees for discussion.

**Colorectal Cancer Testing**

Mr. Barber provided the Committee with information from Excellus on colorectal cancer screening and stated Excellus informed him that the Consortium has 1,930 eligible subscribers who should have this screening and of those 1,139 had screenings (60%). By 2018 a goal has been set to have 80% of adults ages 50 and older to be screened for colorectal cancer. He spoke of bringing this up as a competition primarily to raise awareness. It was suggested to defer doing any competition until the communication piece is in place.

**Next Agenda Items**

The following items will be included on the next agenda:

Flu Clinics;  
Making the Case for Consortium-wide Wellness Program;  
Update on Consortium informational and instructional videos

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.