

Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board Meeting
Ramkota Hotel
Casper, WY
August 23, 2013, 8:30 AM

Don Stauffenberg, Wyoming Miners Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were:

Don Stauffenberg - Riverton
Jamie LaValley – Gillette
Bill Rice - Gillette
Gary Wolfe – Green River
David Hornbeck – Casper
Rose Moseby – Rock Springs
Donald Dorn – Newcastle
Rick Magstadt – Greybull

Not Present:

Bill Korhonen – Rock Springs

Others Present were:

Mary Ellen Young – Executive Director
Helen Jerome – Gillette Administrative Assistant
Judi Jarnagin – Green River Administrative Assistant
Kelly Roseberry –AG Representative

Don Stauffenberg made a determination that there was a quorum and that the meeting could proceed.

- I) Introductions were made of the new Green River Admin Assistant, Judi Jarnagin and of the two new board members, Donald Dorn and Rick Magstadt.
- II) Approval of May 3, 2013 minutes:
Gary Wolfe made the motion to approve the minutes from May 3, 2013. Jamie LaValley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- III) Approval of July Financials
 - 1) Mary Ellen went over the financials with the board which shows that we will not be short as originally thought. The approved supplemental budget was approved and the money had not been put into our budget yet.
Motion to approve the financials: Rose Moseby made the motion to approve the financials. Bill Rice seconded. Motion carried.
- IV) Old Business: Executive Director's Report/Programs
 - (1) Executive Director's Report/Programs had been sent to all board members. There were no questions.
 - (2) Hardships are coming up for renewal. Currently we have 8 miners on the Hardship Status. Mary Ellen was informed by two members that they will probably not be reapplying as they found some other ways to reduce their upfront prescription costs.
 - (3) Hearing aid program – We are actually down from previous years but our average is higher per month. We are seeing a lot more second hearing aid requests. This request has to be approved by Mary Ellen Young before the claim can be paid. It is a case by case basis determination. In November we started paying for reasonable hearing aid repairs in order to

possibly keep the requests for second hearing aids down. The money for repairs comes from the Medical Assistance side and not the hearing aid side.

- (4) Miner's Medical Assistance – we are only up .001% from 2011 to 2012. Prescription claims are down 38% for the same time frame. The reason for the large drop is due to a rule change in 2011 that made the miner file a claim for prescription copays.
- (5) The number of medical claims was up 43% from 2011 to 2012. We have more miners registered in the program. We have started to track the registrations as to whether they are new, reinstatements, updates or denials. In the last 48 registrations we have found the years of service vary. Mary Ellen Young reviewed the reports that she receives from EBMS showing claim information with regards to monies paid out, etc. Discussion was held on the possibility of WMHB taking over doing the claims ourselves. The IT Dept. in Cheyenne said that it could not be accomplished until at least 2016 and the start-up cost would be quite substantial.
- (6) Kelly Roseberry reported that the result of the LSO audit that was done is available online. Mary Ellen Young feels that the results she has seen were appropriate and right on.

V) New Business:

- (1) 2015-2016 Budget/Exception requests
 - (a) Mary Ellen Young reviewed the budget that was submitted for 2015-2016. She explained where the additional funds were needed and why.
 - (b) Jamie LaValley made the motion and Don Dorn seconded to approve the budget as Mary Ellen Young submitted. Motion carried.
- (2) 2015-2016 Strategic Plan
 - (a) This has not been completed since the budget needed to be finished first.
- (3) Status of continued Wellness Testing
 - (a) Wellness testing was suspended for 2012-2013 due to the fact that it was not being used as it was intended and the MHB was often not the payer of last resort. Insurance from the miner's company provided the same benefit and our Wellness Program was in effect a duplication of benefits. It was also determined that many of the mining companies were using our dollars to give their miners an annual hearing test to comply with MSHA requirements; which was never the intent of the Wellness Program. There was much discussion about how to provide Wellness Testing to those individuals that could really benefit from Wellness Testing and do not have insurance to assist with the cost. The board realizes there is a need for the Wellness testing by a small group of individuals, but the ability to administer that testing is not possible with our current database information. It was noted by Mary Ellen that the blood work up is the part of wellness testing that is currently not covered under any current portion of our programs. If a miner has respiratory or cardiac issues, we currently assist with those diagnoses within the Miners' Medical Assistance Program. Don Stauffenberg also mentioned that many legislatures have often questioned the Wellness Program and how it relates to our responsibility to provide assistance to miners that are disabled or incapacitated. Rick Magstadt made the motion to eliminate in its entirety the wellness testing program. Jamie LaValley seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Vote was called: Bill Rice and Don Stauffenberg opposed, Gary Wolfe abstained and Jamie LaValley, Don Dorn, Gary Magstadt, Rose Moseby and David Hornbeck in favor. Motion carried.
- (4) Hearing Aid Preferred Provider
 - (a) Mary Ellen Young would like to have permission to "tweak" the preferred provider program. The current Letter of Agreement that Preferred Providers sign sets a limit they may charge over their cost and states that they cannot balance bill the miner. Mary Ellen Young feels that they should be able to balance bill if the miner if that miners wants the higher priced hearing aids. Gary Wolfe emphasized that the service after the sale is a big factor in miners getting the proper hearing aids fitted so that they can hear well. Mary

Ellen Young would like to meet with EBMS and see what they would suggest if the provider wants to be a preferred provider. Mary Ellen Young will then bring the information to the board.

(5) Durable Medical Equipment Coverage (DME)

(a) Primary insurances normally do not pay for the purchase of this type of equipment so the Miners' Hospital benefits end up picking up 100% of the bill. Do we want to continue paying for this type of equipment? Mary Ellen Young is recommending that we do not pay for the purchase of durable medical equipment. During the discussion, one board member asked for clarified that we would still assist with the rental of some DME, especially equipment rented for respiratory ailment. Mary Ellen clarified that we would pay for rental of DME, but not the purchase of such items. Rick Magstadt made the motion that we no longer pay for the purchase of durable medical equipment. Jamie LaValley seconded. Motion carried.

(6) Statute and/or Rule changes

(a) Mary Ellen Young, Don Stauffenberg, Senator Hastert and Rep Wallace were assigned by the Joint Appropriations committee in June to review the rule and statute changes. The committee notes that there were two problem areas that we needed to address (1) residency and (2) eligibility. We need to decide how long a miner needs to be working years in order to be eligible for benefits. A committee was formed with Don Stauffenberg consisting of Rick Magstadt, Mary Ellen Young, and Jamie LaValley to come back to the next meeting with recommendations of what needs to be changed in the statute and rules. Don would like to have Mary Ellen Young identify by statute and by rule the burning issues. The 12 month employment qualification is a very large issue.

VI) Public Sounding

1) None at this time.

VII) Adjournment & Next Meeting

1) November 8, 2013 at Casper, Ramkota Hotel at 8:30 am

2) Adjourned at 11:45 am Rose Moseby made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.