

Cheyenne Little America
Sinclair Room
February 17, 2016

MINUTES

- I Call to Order and Roll Call Don Stauffenberg
- Attendees: Jamies LaValley, Don Dorn, Don Stauffenberg, Rick Magstadt, Tanya Allee, Gary Wolfe, David Hornbeck, Grant Christensen,
 - Other Attendees: Mary Ellen Young, Helen Jerome, Misha Westby AG Rep
 - Absent: Terry Donaldson
- II Approval of August 7th board meeting minutes and Conference calls minutes from Sept 16 and Nov 17th 2015 Mary Ellen Young
- Reviewed. Don Dorn made the motion to approve the meeting and conference call minutes. Gary Wolfe seconded. Motion carried
- III Approval of January Financials Don Stauffenberg
- Balance is \$3.6 to \$3.7 million left in our program. We may have about \$2 million left over barring any surprises. \$750K was left over in 2014. We will see our claims go up in the next year due to layoffs, etc. Grant Christianson made the motion to approve the financials. Rick Magstadt seconded. Motion carried
- IV OLD BUSINESS:
- V Rules Passed 12/15/2015 Don Stauffenberg
- The process with changing the rules was started 6 years ago. There were issues that had to be met and bills introduced that died in the legislature on more than one occasion. The LSO recommended Governor not sign one draft of the Rules because they determined the Rules were over reaching the Statute. Another set of rules were developed only to find that more definitions were needed. We then completely changed the rules again and finally got them passed. With the new Rules we can mentor the program as needed, such as changing the amounts of benefits given as long as we stay within the maximum amount as dictated by the Statute. The new rules will be posted on the website.
- VI Executive Director's Report/Programs Mary Ellen
- The information in the Executive Director's report lists peeps and calls which lets everyone know how many calls come in and how many people come into the offices.
 - Hearing aid program was changed slightly to only allowing \$1K for non-preferred providers and we have had 2 new offices become preferred providers since January 1, 2016.
 - Pricing by providers shows several are overcharging and we have gotten some money refunded to our members for these overcharges.
 - The hardship program has 5 participants at the present time which is to help them get their medications without having to pay the copay up front.
 - Mary Ellen is in the process of determining if the hearing aid program can be taken over by our offices in order to provide a more uniform system of dealing with the hearing aid providers and governing the costs to our members. This would be a good fit for the Rock Springs office in order to keep a person busy in that location.
 - We continue to get new registrations every day and they are only taken care of in the Gillette office so that we can keep an eye on being sure everything is in order before the person is registered.

- If we increase 15% in registered miners since the date of the current contract, July 1, 2013, EBMS can trigger a contract reopener. The hearing aid contract is separate and has 2 more years on that contract.
- Paid claims history is staying pretty stable. Monthly averages bounce a lot. January was high because of the backlog of hearing aid claims that was paid. Some of the monthly claims amounts paid are dropping slightly.

VII Hearing Aid Survey

Mary Ellen

- Finding that overcharging is being done by our hearing aid providers. Can we control the cost for the miner in better? Mary Ellen will contact some of our providers to see what we can come up with.
- Consulting providers need to be determined and a list drawn up by next meeting. A set of guidelines can be set up for people to perhaps better pick a provider. Educate your recipients or put out for competitive bid. What might need to be done is to create posters about knowing your rights before buying a hearing aid. We also need to look at the feasibility of trying to control the cost for the miners better.
- Misha Westby will check into how we can better govern our hearing aid providers and perhaps change the preferred providers to a Network Provider. Ideas will be gone over at next meeting. Mary Ellen will talk to Jeanie Burton on how we can pay the claims which probably will have to be done through the State Wolffs Program.
- The survey has helped to bring forth any issue the miner might have with either their hearing aids and/or provider.

VIII Website report

Mary Ellen

- Report will be at next meeting. Deb Alvarez did get it fixed so that we are only seeing the hits our website is getting and not all of the states.

IX NEW BUSINESS:

X New Bill proposed SF0074

Mary Ellen

- Mary Ellen and Don have been to two meetings regarding the bill and it seems that it is being received well. The bill is so we can staff with one Executive Director and two full time employees as needed. The allocation of funds will be \$45K for this time.

XI New reimbursement rates

Helen

- We were advised in January that the mileage rate will drop to \$0.54 per mile and the per diem rates have changed to \$51 for the standard rate, Cody is \$64, Rock Springs/Evanston is \$59, Gillette is \$59, Jackson/Pinedale is \$74. If a town is not listed then the standard rate of \$51 applies.

XII Staffing of Rock Springs office

Mary Ellen

- Deb Alvarez gave notice that her last day was on Jan 22. Mary Ellen would like to wait to see if the bill gets passed before rehiring for the Rock Springs office. Perhaps have someone work 3 full 8 hour days rather than 5 half days.

XIII Posting Board openings on Facebook and/or website?

Mary Ellen

- We need to perhaps post on our website and Facebook so that we can get a better variety of people in the different mining environments. The statute does designate that we have a certain number from Sweetwater and Campbell Counties. The board thought that this was a good idea.

XIV Paying for Stem Cell injections?

Mary Ellen

- We have had requests for us to cover stem cell injections under musculoskeletal. This type of treatment is used to try and avoid or delay surgery. It is to stimulate tissue growth. It will have to go toward a diagnosis that we cover and we pay no more than \$5K per year anyway. Grant Christianson made the motion that we pay for stem cell injections as long as the injection is with a diagnosis that we currently cover. Rick Magstedt seconded. Motion carried.

XV Should the cost of ear molds be a benefit w/hearing aids?

Mary Ellen

- This is a needed function to be able to provide a certain style of hearing aids. The maximum for the hearing aids will not change. Gary Wolfe made the motion for our program to pay for the ear molds in conjunction with hearing aids. Grant Christianson seconded. Motion carried.
- We pay for the rental of c pap machines so would we pay for the purchase of the mouth pieces that dentists prescribe for sleep apnea. The cost is approximately \$750. No decision was reached. Has EBMS ever gotten back to us on the sleep apnea claims? It hasn't been decided whether we are going to continue pay for sleep apnea claims. Do we want EBMS to come to our next meeting? Has NIOSH done a study on the relationship to the shift work and sleep apnea? This will be checked out.

XVI Election of 2016 board chairman

Mary Ellen

- Don Stauffenberg was nominated and elected by acclimation. David Hornbeck made the nomination of Don Stauffenberg to continue as our Chairman by acclimation. Jamie LaValley seconded. Motion carried.

XVII Public Sounding

- None

XVIII Adjournment & Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be June 3, 2016 at Casper, WY with the location to be determined. Gary Wolfe made the motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carried.