

Cheyenne Little America
Sinclair Room
Cheyenne, Wyoming
January 21, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Donald Dorn	David Hornbeck	Jamie LaValley	Gary Wolfe
Don Stauffenberg	Grant Christiansen	Tanya Alee	Bill Kohornan
Mackenzie Williams-AG Rep			

ABSENT:

Rick Magstadt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Ellen Young – Executive Director
Helen L. Jerome – Administrative Assistant, Gillette Office
Leslie Doak – Administrative Assistant, Rock Springs Office

1. Call to Order and Roll Call 8:22 am Don Stauffenberg
Welcome new members Tonya Allee and Grant Christensen
Welcome new Rock Springs office staff, Leslie Doak
Welcome Mackenzie Williams, AG rep
2. Presentation from Cloud Peak Energy addressing HSA's Mary Ellen Young
 - Monica Lopez and Cary Martin discussed the options WMHB may have in order for miners to be able to continue with their benefits from WMHB and still have their high deductible health plan (HDHP) with an HSA. The board has options to make our program structured so that we are in compliance with IRS guidelines by; (1) change our coverage for a specific disease or illness, (2) coverage for a fixed amount per day of hospitalization, (3) coverage for a disability or (4) not pay the member's deductible. Many employers are going to implement a HDHP with an HSA to steer away from Cadillac plans and it is their opinion that thereby if we do not make these changes and are not in compliance with IRA there will be no need for WMHB. Mary Ellen Young pointed out that this is not true because we have a lot of members who have worked a year in the mine and then have gone elsewhere, we have disabled miners that no longer work and we have retired miners and all will remain covered by WMHB as long as they are Wyoming residents.
 - After much discussion, the board opted to not make any changes currently and to see how things pan out. In order to make some of the substantial changes to our program, it would require our Statute and Rules to change, requiring legislative and Governor approval. There is also the high probability that if we pay benefits to the miner in an AFLAC sort of policy, those benefits would then be taxable.
 - The AG rep thought that maybe we need to talk to a consultant to see where we may go for options on how to handle this in the future. Don Stauffenberg suggested that perhaps we could find someone at EBMS that could come to our next meeting to further discuss this further.

3. Approval of September 12, 2014 minutes

Don Stauffenberg

- Correction of adding Bill Korhonen to the attendee list for the September minute. Don Dorn made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Gary Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of December Financials

Don Stauffenberg

- The financials look incorrect due to the way they are being written. Invoices were being paid from the balance of the funds from the 14-15 Budget years and not from the current fiscal year.
- Mary Ellen Young will check on getting these changes done.
- Bill Korhonen made the motion to approve the financials. Jamie LaValley seconded. Motion carried.

5. Old Business:

A. Executive Director's Report/Programs

Mary Ellen

- Mary Ellen Young pointed out in red on page one to the terminations and registrations that have been done. We are currently at 14.4% increase in membership from the last contract date. The HA program contract is up for renewal and Mary Ellen Young is working with EBMS on it. Miner's Medical expenses increased by \$83K for the calendar year. Hearing aid expenses went down \$22K and prescriptions went down by \$23K. The hardship program has 4 members on it and they will requalify every October. The claim history has risen slightly. 16% used between \$4K and \$5K. We had 28 people that used the \$5K compared to 23 last year. We show that we are having good response to our offices in both locations. Mary Ellen Young is looking at having another open house in Rock Springs to get more exposure.

B. 2015/2016 Budget – Exception Request status

Mary Ellen

- Don Stauffenberg and Mary Ellen Young met with the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) in December and they feel very hopeful that our Exception Request will be granted allowing the board employees to become state employees. Governor Meade and the JAC have been very complimentary about how the money is handled currently.

C. Rules status

Don/Mackenzie

- Mary Ellen Young passed out the letter we received back from the LSO regarding the rule changes that we had asked to be approved.
- Mackenzie Williams relayed the rule making procedure. Rules were being approved that were not really good and so there has been a shift on how the rule making procedures will be carried out. The LSO is set up to scrutinize more thoroughly requests for Rule changes which is what happened with our last Rule changes. The length of service was a large factor as to why the Rules were not approved by the LSO. We need a better definition as to the wording of "occasional or incidental basis" in (ii) of our Statute 30-6-102. Our previous AG deemed it appropriate. There is a universal policy to be adopted for hearings regarding rules. The legislature wants all agencies to adopt the universal policy.
- There were again questions as to the line between the power plant and mine operation. The board needs to address exactly what qualifies as a conversion or processing facility.
- Don Stauffenberg suggested that we back off the current rule changes completely and start with a new set regarding what we need to change. The AG said that he possibly

has better language to use. Don Stauffenberg said that perhaps we can have something by the next meeting.

- If the board continues to see an increase in benefits paid out and an increase in registrations, Mary Ellen Young stated that we may be able to limit what benefits the one year employed miner receives versus the miners with five years employment would receive. Mackenzie said that that might pass the LSO review with the fact that we are not excluding those miners with less than 5 years employment, but are limiting what they receive in relationship to their years of service.
- Mary Ellen Young is compiling an administrative procedure file that will eventually be placed on our website after it has been approved by the board.
- Gary Wolfe made the motion that Don Stauffenberg, Mary Ellen Young, and the AG Representative develop a new set of rules to be resubmitted. Jamie LaValley seconded. Motion carried.

6. New Business

A. 2nd Hearing aid procedures

Mary Ellen

- Concerning a second hearing aid benefit procedure Mary Ellen Young just changed the procedure from having to have preapproval for the second hearing aid set. Mary Ellen Young had to do a lot of research on whether or not people would qualify for a second hearing aid. Mary Ellen found that the manufacturer will repair hearing aids up to 5 years and we pay \$250 for a repair for each hearing aid, twice for the life of the aid. The new procedure will allow for a second hearing aid benefit to be paid out if the miner is actively registered, has only received the hearing aid benefit once previously and their last hearing aid benefit was a minimum of 5 years ago. Grant Christianson made the motion to allow members to receive a second set of hearing aids if the sets are a minimum of 5 years apart. Gary Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Leslie Doak is currently working on a customer service survey for people who have received hearing aids. She is working on October thru current hearing aid claims.

B. New reimbursement guidelines

Helen

- Helen Jerome had received information from Jean Burton that our Board members would be paid the legislative rate per day which would include meals and lodging. Our AG Rep said that our Board members are to be reimbursed as per state employees per our statute for the WMHB. Helen will follow up with Jean Burton to insure which procedure is correct.

C. Election of 2015 Board Chairman

Mary Ellen

- Gary Wolfe nominated Don Stauffenberg for Chairman. Bill Korhonen made the motion to close nominations. Jamie LaValley seconded the motion. Don Stauffenberg won by acclamation.
- Bill Korhonen's final term on the board will expire this June. Don Stauffenberg's and Jamie LaValley's first term will expire in June. Board applications are available online and need to be filled out and submitted to the Governor.

7. Public Sounding

- None

8. Adjournment & Next Meeting

- May 1st at Casper, WY at 8 am
- Bill Korhonen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jamie LaValley seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.