

Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board Meeting
Best Western Ramkota Hotel
Casper, WY
August 17, 2012 8:30 am

CALL TO ORDER:

The President, Albert Battisti, Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board President, called this meeting of the Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board to order at 8:30 am.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were:

Albert Battisti – Rock Springs

Brook Bahnson – CC Memorial Hospital Representative

David Hornbeck – Casper

Bill Korhonen – Rock Springs

Jamie LaValley – Gillette

Rose Moseby – Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County Representative

Don Stauffenberg – Riverton

Gary Wolfe – Green River

Cliff Knesel - Gillette

Others Present were:

Mary Ellen Young – Executive Director

Helen Jerome – Gillette Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Hartford – Green River Administrative Assistant

Ken Nelson – Senior Assistant Attorney General

Janean Honadel – EBMS Account Manager

Senator John Hastert

Albert Battisti made a determination that there was a quorum and that the meeting could proceed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Cliff made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2012 meeting. Jamie seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed. Cliff made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2012 conference call. Gary seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Executive Director's Report – Mary Ellen went over what phone calls into the offices pertained to. The open house in Gillette was held on July 11th. Janean from EBMS attended. Approximately 35-40 people came in. The open house in Green River was held on July 18th. Jana from EBMS attended. Approximately 6 people came in. By doing the registrations in house helps us to be able to weed out the ones that are not qualified. EBMS will be sending

out the termination letters and the denial letters will be sent out by our office. We have started asking for copies of the registrants' driver's license. ID cards that are sent out will have our phone numbers on them as well as the EBMS phone number. We have been working with NOWCAP in the field of Black Lung. As of July 31, approximately 8,012 miners have registered. EBMS Hearing Aid TPA contract is being worked on and will be completed shortly.

B. Financial Reports – report was handed out to all present. There was a difference of approximately \$48K between budgeted and expenses paid.

C. Programs:

a. Hearing Aid Assistance and PPO – do not have a current report on how many claims we have paid. EBMS is working on getting that information for us. Only 4 providers have not currently resigned for the PPOs.

i. Mary Ellen brought forth an issue with several Hearing Aid providers. Some miners were serviced/evaluated during the black-out period of May or June of 2012. All of these miners were not fitted nor received the hearing aids until after July 1, 2012. There seems to be a misunderstanding in the word “service”. The term “service date” to many hearing aid providers is when the miner is fitted with the hearing aid, not the initial evaluation. Hearing tests are usually free, but even if there is a charge, it is not paid by the WMHB. Mary Ellen feels that the board needs to give direction for the claims that have been denied if the miner was evaluated in May or June. Gary made the Motion that we pay for hearing aids received after July first even though the miner was evaluated in May or June. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

b. Miners' Medical Assistance-Mary Ellen is still gathering ideas of going with criteria of what we are going to offer for annual wellness exams. We will be checking with hospitals in our areas to see what they would charge us for the wellness exams. The miner would have to have an ID card. We are always last payer and their primary insurance needs to be billed for this service first. Ken Nelson feels that we should be able to tie in with WY Health fairs for this service. Should we put some additional limitations on who gets the wellness testing? The board has 2 obligations – providing disabled or incapacitated miners assistance and providing help for conditions due to labor in the mining industry.

c. Mobile Wellness Testing – We haven't had any wellness testing charges paid to CCMH due to the fact that we have a credit so we did not have to pay for wellness checks for approximately 3 months. MOST is currently testing within the state. CCMH and MOST are required to send names and numbers before their bill is paid to be sure we are testing only registered miners.

d. Prescription drug plans are down. We must consider if this is due to the fact that people don't send in claims on a regular basis but instead wait until the end of the fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Janean Honadel – EBMS Account Manager

- a. TPA Contract Cap-The number of medical claims went up substantially due to the increase in registered miners. The current contract with EBMS as a TPA has a \$250K cap. Due to this cap and increased claims in May and June, EBMS had to write off a substantial amount. Mary Ellen would like to entertain the idea of raising the cap for the last year of their contract to \$350K. The cap is based on fiscal year not calendar year. Cliff made the motion to raise the cap to \$350K, seconded by Jamie LaValley. Motion carried.
- b. Suspend Enrollments/Update Registrations – We are asking everyone to provide us with a copy of their WY Driver’s License or state ID card. We will be suspending everyone that has not currently supplied us with the proper information. Everyone will be required to fill out the new forms. Perhaps we need to do an annual reregistration in order to keep files updated. Something to consider later. Gary suggested that maybe the miners would be able to utilize the EBMS system that is available to all registrants for this updating on a yearly basis.
- c. Cost savings ideas. Imposing deductibles, not paying for ER claims etc... Data was presented on various expenses the board has paid that do not fall under Statute 3006-102 (b) (i) “...conditions of miners due to labor in the mining industry,” – Janean reviewed the executive summary for WY Miner’s Health Assistance. Historically if the claim falls under any of the 4 health conditions, we pay for it. There are ways to filter out the claims that do not qualify for our benefit. The intent of the program is to pay claims that are identified with the miner’s occupation. Exclusions on the program could include wellness/preventive care charges, hyperlipidemia or high cholesterol treatment, acute infections or illnesses, sinusitis, accidents and poisonings, fractures/injuries related to a motor vehicle accident or fall, etc., deviated nasal septum, chronic rhinitis and TMJ. Excluding these claims would have shown us a cost savings of \$64K plus for the past 9 months. The Rule: Service for Miners could be changed so reflect that the claim is directly related to the miner’s work in the mine. There was an extensive discussion on changing the Rules to limit amount of medical assistance to be paid to the different age categories. Ken reiterated that it takes approximately three and a half months in order to accomplish Rule changes. EBMS will need to have some time as well in order to initiate their system changes. Cliff made the motion that EBMS be given the authority to apply the changes necessary based on diagnostic codes that are not related to an acquired mine site condition. Bill seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Senator John Hastert:

- a. Discuss options concerning desired Rule changes – The original act of admission makes it very clear what the Miners’ Hospital Board funds are for. Current questions presented to Senator Hastert include: Is it the right thing to allow people working in

contiguous states to be included? Excluding people who have worked in the mines in WY but have moved to another state after they retire are no longer eligible for benefits since they are no longer current residents.

- b. Discuss options concerning desired Statute changes – is there anything that the legislature needs to do? Possibly one of the things that legislature can help is in the definition of a miner.
- C. Other – Ideas were thrown out for cost savings. These included: 1. Do we need to change our benefits and drop it down to \$4000? 2. Do we want to discontinue the Wellness program completely? 3. Do we want to impose our own deductible? 4. Do we know how many disabled or incapacitated miners we have in the program? It was decided that since we are asking for proof of residency, have decided to monitor the claims to include only those that are more directly related to “...labor in the mining industry”, the MHB has taken over all registrations and the fact that we will be, at the least, changing the Wellness Program the board will monitor our expenses and see if our costs drop before we institute any further changes to the programs.
- D. Rule Changes –Don moved to resubmit Chapter 2 of the rules. Previous changes that conflicted with our statute were taken out, listing other forms of proof of residency and adding wording under Benefit Programs (a) that include “...for pulmonary/respiratory, cardiac and musculoskeletal conditions of miners which are due to labor in the mining industry.” was added. Other changes were mainly clarification and cleaning up of language. Seconded by Cliff. Motion carried. There was a motion by Bill, seconded by Gary to resubmit chapter 1 rule changes as amended on 4/16/2012. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SOUNDING:

None

ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: Approximately October 26th

The rule changes will be done with a phone conference call to adopt them.

Adjourned at 12:23 pm