

WFCA HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The WFCA Health Care Committee held a regular meeting on Friday, January 24, 2020 at the state association office in Olympia, Washington.

PRESENT

Members: Jack Hensley, Gene Carmody, Ken Eakin, Jim Farrell and Brad Langdell. Jim Farrell assumed the chair because it was necessary for Jack Hensley to call in to the meeting.

Guests: Tina Vasen (TPSC), Kari Justad, Sally Borte and Adam Frey via telephone (Parker, Smith & Feek), Guy Earle M.D. (Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue).

Staff: Roger Ferris, Anne Marvin, Nora Eyllenfeldt, and Tori Pettis.

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Farrell served as chair for Jack Hensley, who joined the meeting by telephone. Chair Farrell called the meeting to order at 10:58 am, leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and commencing with introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brad Langdell moved and it was seconded to approve minutes of the October 22, 2019 regular meeting. **Motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Roger Ferris reviewed fourth quarter finances and stated the program was in good financial condition. The WFCA is continuing to pull back from investing in government bonds, and shifting to the Local Government Investment Pool.

JAMES R. LARSON FORUM BUILDING REPORT

Roger Ferris confirmed the Board for Volunteer Firefighters signed a five-year lease. Moving from suite 112 to 106, the tenants now reside in a larger space with higher rates and will supply the WFCA with five years of added income. Additionally, the building had interest from a law firm, but after much negotiation they pulled their letter of interest and the space is back on the market. Mr. Ferris stated he will be putting together a new three-year maintenance plan, with a special focus on improving building security.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

FIREFIGHTER PHYSICALS

Guy Earle M.D. provided an overview of his recommendations to the committee regarding firefighter physicals. Expanding upon common mental and physical health issues for firefighters, he illustrated the benefits of the medical screenings.

EXPERIENCE REPORT

Adam Frey from Parker, Smith & Feek stated the experience ratio through December 2019 was 92.4%, all self-funded plans combined. Mr. Frey reviewed each plan's performance as well as large claims. Dental was successful during the year, running below budget at 93%.

The committee recessed for lunch at 12:10 pm; the committee reconvened at 12:45 pm.

FIREFIGHTER PHYSICAL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Parker, Smith & Feek presented their estimated cost impact for implementing firefighter physicals. Based on the data presented, the committee deemed the rate increases required for the program to be excessive and detrimental to the program as a whole. The committee discussed the possibility of legislation advocating L&I require firefighter physicals, as an alternative route to promote the program. Brad Langdell moved and it was seconded to turn over the issue of L&I mandating firefighter physicals to the Legislative Committee. **Motion carried.**

OPEN ENROLLMENT RESULTS 2019

Anne Marvin reported open enrollment went smoothly in 2019, with one new volunteer and a loss of 75 members and 17 employees overall.

HEALTH CARE MANAGER’S REPORT

Anne Marvin stated the January 1st transition from Maxor Plus to CVS Caremark was successful. Ms. Marvin reported the WFCAs Health Care Program completed financial and accountability audits, getting deemed fair and in accordance with state laws, by the State Auditor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The committee discussed a request from Jim Zuluaga regarding Medicare. The committee concluded that the WFCAs does not have the flexibility to provide retiree coverage or to change its eligibility rules to have Medicare pay primary for those commissioners who become eligible for Medicare while they are an active commissioner.

NEW BUSINESS

Anne Marvin introduced the possibility of waiving the requirement of benefits coverage for those covered with other group health insurance. Currently the WFCAs mandates benefit coverage for those who are eligible, but has made exceptions to this rule on a case by case basis. Ken Eakin moved and it was seconded that if an employee or spouse has proof of group medical insurance, they can opt out of coverage, effective January 1, 2020. **Motion carried.**

Balance Billing Protection Act (R2019-04)

Sally Borte summarized balanced billing, problems it can cause to health care participants and impending legislation to address the problem. The WFCAs’s current system of handling balanced billing is successful with few problems. Sally Borte anticipates the federal government will eventually pass legislation on the topic. Discussion followed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

ADJOURN

Jim Farrell adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Jack Hensley, Chair

Tori Pettis, Recording Secretary