

# MINUTES

## METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT BOARD

### MEDICAL & LIFE COMMITTEE

**May 27, 2011**

The Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board's Medical & Life Committee met on Friday, May 27, 2011 in the Civil Service Conference Room, Suite 163, 222 Building, Third Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, at approximately 9:33 a.m.

Committee Members present: Chair: Clyde D. Smith; Vice-Chair: Rita Roberts-Turner; Members: \*Ann Butterworth\*\*, B.R. Hall, Sr., James H. Johnson, and Richard Riebeling

Other Members present: Shannon Hall, Metro Human Resources, Nicki Eke, Attorney, Metro Legal Department and Dr. Celia Goodson, Civil Service Medical Examiner.

#### **BENEFIT BOARD ITEMS**

The Human Resources staff submitted the following for the Committee's consideration and appropriate action:

1. Self insured PPO plan appeal – Denial for services rendered by a licensed massage therapist.

Shannon Hall reported to the Board that a deferral has been requested on this item.

B.R. Hall moved for approval to defer this item. Rita Roberts-Turner seconded and the Committee approved without objection.

2. Self insured PPO plan appeal – Predetermination denial for gastric bypass.

Shannon Hall reported to the Board that a member participating in the self insured PPO plan administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield was denied pre-determination for gastric by-pass. She stated that subsequently the grievance was denied and the member has submitted this appeal.

The appellant was not present.

Debbie Sims, Blue Cross Blue Shield, was present and reviewed the basis for the denial (morbid obesity and level of body mass index)

There was some discussion of the individual's medical conditions, a prior (gastric bypass) surgery and medical necessity.

\*Denotes the arrival of Ann Butterworth.

Debbie Sims reviewed the criteria/policy provisions regarding the gastric by-pass surgery.

There was discussion of the physician's recommendations for the surgery.

There was discussion of the individual's attempts at weight loss, the previous surgery and medical necessity criteria.

The Committee discussed any other cases where the individual has already had a surgery, the physician's knowledge of the individual's previous surgery and who performed that surgery.

There was discussion of the plan (BCBS) not addressing this type of surgery more than once, the different types of gastric by-pass surgeries and having a previous surgery not being a factor in the denial.

After some discussion of accountability by the individual, considering this a medical necessity and the physicians statements, James Johnson moved to refer this case to the Civil Service Medical Examiner for review and requested more information regarding the member's other weight loss options attempted. Richard Riebeling seconded and the Committee approved without objection.

2. Self insured PPO plan appeal – Predetermination denial for gastric bypass. (continued)

It was noted to see if the individual was covered under Metro's health plan at the time of the first surgery and to make sure that Dr. Goodson is able to get access to the medical information needed.

3. Health plan administration discussion.

Debbie Sims and Dr. Kelley Riley, Blue Cross Blue Shield, were present.

There was discussion of issues with approval of rehabilitation services and skilled nursing facilities based on the physician's recommendations and the member's needs.

Debbie Sims discussed the medical policy, the types of services available based on medical condition and the process for finding a appropriate facility.

Dr. Kelley Riley discussed the criteria used for the different types of rehab services.

There was discussion of involving case management in these type situations and review of the physicians recommendations.

Blue Cross Blue Shield confirmed there is an expedited first level grievance process in place to help in expediting this type of case.

4. Funding for the Police and Fire wellness program.

Shannon Hall reported to the Committee that at the Board referred the discussion for future funding of this program to the Committee for discussion.

There was discussion of the Board initially funding this program on a temporary basis and the funding needs to be placed within the Police and Fire departments.

Alisa Haushalter, Health Department, was present to address the Committee regarding the program.

There was discussion of grant money to help fund the program, inception and transitions during the program, and having Dr. William Paul discuss future funding of the program with the Chiefs of Police and Fire.

There was discussion of assessing the needs for the program, the Board's funding of the program ending next fiscal year (6/30/12), the individual departments obtaining grant funding and coordination with other programs (annual exams).

\*\*Denotes Ann Butterworth leaving the meeting.

With nothing further presented, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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***Mrs. Rita Roberts-Turner, Director  
Human Resources***

***Mr. Clyde D. Smith, Chair  
Medical & Life Committee***