

MINUTES

PUBLIC AGENCY COALITION ENTERPRISE (PACE)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 22, 2021

2:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LIVINGSTON, CITY OF
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
SUPERIOR COURT OF CA, MENDOCINO COUNTY

Lam Silva, Non-Officer Member
Jennifer Bower, **President**
Kim Turner, **Secretary/Treasurer**

MANAGERS:

KEENAN & ASSOCIATES

Peter McNamara
Christine Hough
Stacey Comerchero
Nancy Schott

OTHERS:

KEENAN & ASSOCIATES

Sam Mel-Chan
Dayna Gowan

ANTHEM

Joelle Jarmillo

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – September 22, 2021

Presented by Jennifer Bower

Action
2021-059

Motion to approve the September 22, 2021 agenda: 1. Kim Turner and 2. Jennifer Bower. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 25, 2021

Presented by Jennifer Bower

Action
2021-060

Motion to approve the August 25, 2021 Minutes: 1. Kim Turner and 2. Jennifer Bower. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Information

Presented by E. Peter McNamara

2021-061

Joelle Jarmillo reviewed Anthem’s new policy of waiving utilization management requirements for anyone affected by COVID-19 based on a recent California public health order. This includes waiving precertification penalties and facility transfers reviews.

E. Peter McNamara stated PACE, as a self-funded entity, does not have to opt into the new policy. However, there is no real financial impact to PACE and PACE Management recommends following Anthem’s lead on this issue. After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed and he will email Joelle Jarmillo to confirm PACE’s position.

VII. FINANCIAL

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Information

Presented by Sam Mel-Chan

2021-062

The Monthly Financial Review as of August 31, 2021 was reviewed. Medical claims on a weekly basis for January – June ran approximately \$246k. Claims for July, August and September through the week of September 20, 2021 are running lower at approximately \$151k per week.

2018 and 2019 FINANCIAL AUDITS

Action

Presented by Sam Mel-Chan

2021-063

The 2018 and 2019 Financial Audits and PACE financial statements prepared by SETECH and the audit notes prepared by Eide Bailly, third party auditors, were reviewed. There were no difficulties encountered with the audits and Eide Bailly gave the audits the highest opinion rating level of unmodified opinions. The Audit Reports also didn’t find any deficiencies with PACE’s internal processes.

Motion to accept the 2018 and 2019 PACE Financial Audits: 1. Kim Turner and 2. Jennifer Bower. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND (LAIF)

Action

Presented by Sam Mel-Chan

2021-064

The Resolution for application to participate and invest PACE monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) was reviewed. The program is administered by the State Treasurer’s office. Returns on LAIF accounts are higher than with traditional bank accounts. Kim Turner and Jennifer Bower have both had good experience with the LAIF program. There is a \$1M minimum threshold to participate which PACE meets. Sam Mel-Chan suggested PACE establish an investment policy.

Motion to apply for membership in the Local Agency Investment Fund and execute the agreement and direct staff to create an investment policy: 1. Kim Turner and 2. Jennifer Bower. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

ANTHEM UPDATE

Presented by Joelle Jarmillo

**Information
2021-065**

The Anthem utilization report for August 2021 was reviewed. There have been 18 high cost claims over \$50k. Out of the \$3.5M spent for high cost claims, one claim is approximately \$2M and the remaining 17 high cost claims average \$60k each. With things opening up and members feeling more comfortable going to the doctor, there may be an increase in claims for elective services. Most claims are less than \$1k.

AIR AMBULANCE DISCUSSION

Presented by E. Peter McNamara

**Information
2021-066**

E. Peter McNamara discussed an air ambulance reimbursement program through MASA. PACE Management needs to determine if the annual PEPM cost would be less than the cost of claims and will request data on air and ground ambulance usage for PACE for 2020 – current from Anthem. After reviewing the ambulance claims data, it will be determined if a presentation should be brought to the Executive Committee.

ANCILLARY UPDATES

Presented by E. Peter McNamara and Stacey Comerchero

**Information
2021-067**

The LiveHealth Online utilization report was reviewed. There were ten new registrations in August. Total visits in August 2021 were about the same as August 2020.

The ConsumerMedical PACE Airbo virtual information session link for open enrollment and Breast Cancer Awareness flyer for October communication pieces were reviewed. Stacey Comerchero let the Executive Committee know she met a member at an insurance committee meeting who successfully used ConsumerMedical services, including a warm handoff from Anthem to ConsumerMedical, for brain tumor surgery. She will request a testimonial from him that can be shared with PACE groups.

WELLNESS UPDATES

Presented by Dayna Gowan

**Information
2021-068**

An update on the PACE 2021 Health Management Program was reviewed. There have been 190 registrations on the WellSteps platform, more than in all of 2020 with 23 out of the 29 agencies with at least one PACE member participating. The third and final 2021 behavior change campaign is ending October 17, 2021. She will be sending out targeted emails to remind groups completion of one behavior change campaign is required to earn a reward.

At the Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting on 9/8, with the goal of increasing participation, the Committee suggested sending out a survey at the end of the program year to PACE members requesting feedback and what other wellness activities might be of interest. Kim Turner asked if two surveys might be possible: One to members participating in the program and a separate survey to all PACE members. A single survey with decision based questions that could be sent to all PACE members might also be an option. Dayna Gowan offered to put together a survey example for the October Executive Committee Meeting.

For the current 2021 program, members can earn one point for a flu shot and another point for a COVID-19 vaccine. For the 2022 program, E. Peter McNamara suggested the points be higher for receiving a COVID-19 vaccine and/or booster, if recommended by the CDC, than a regular flu shot. The cost of a COVID-19 claim (regular COVID and/or long haul COVID) for an unvaccinated member can be very high and PACE should do everything possible to encourage vaccination among the members. It was also discussed to add the increased points option to the 2021 program if possible.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

PACE NEW MEMBER ACTIVITY

Information

Presented by Christine Hough

2021-069

There were three requests evaluated and quoted as a potential member of PACE:

1. City of Big Bear Lake – 66 eligible employees with 9 waivers. They currently have rich PPO age rated plans. Christine Hough was able to provide rates approx. 2% higher than their current rates.
2. Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District – 17 eligible employees with 4 waivers. This agency was declined due to not meeting the underwriting guidelines based on the number of employees and waivers.
3. Resource Conservation District of Tehama County – 16 eligible with 5 waivers. This agency was declined due to not meeting the underwriting guidelines based on the number of employees and waivers.

Modoc County has indicated they will be joining PACE effective January 1, 2022. The Superior Court of California, Kings County should also be joining effective January 1, 2022.

IX. INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Information

Jennifer Bower asked about the website. E. Peter McNamara indicated Keenan is working with Keenan's parent company, AssuredPartners, on the IT requirements and the process is a longer one than he anticipated.

MANAGER COMMENTS

Information

The City of McFarland requested forgiveness of a premium late fee of \$5k. The City has previously requested forgiveness of premium late fees. There is a new City Manager who will be putting written policies in place to make sure vendors are paid on time. Jennifer Bower indicated she is willing to consider waiving the premium late fee if the City Manager is implementing new policies for on-time payments in the future. Kim Turner suggested approving the request for one time only. Lam Silva agreed with Jennifer Bower and Kim Turner to waive the late fee one more time. This issue will be brought to the October Executive Committee meeting as an action item.

There is a request from an agency for retroactive terminations for two members far past the 60 day policy because they didn't realize the members were not terminated in BenefitBridge. Both PACE and Anthem have a 60 day retroactive termination policy. The agency would have been able to tell on its monthly

BenefitBridge premium bill the member's terminations weren't updated in BenefitBridge. Stacey Comerchero indicated in August she requested the agency update the terminations in BenefitBridge. The agency still hadn't changed the status from Active to Terminated as of September 21, 2021 which is why they continue to be billed for the terminated members' premiums. The Executive Committee determined the agency needed to abide by the 60 day termination policy already in place.

E. Peter McNamara confirmed the Executive Committee would like each administrative request brought them for consideration. Stacey Comerchero will continue to let PACE groups know any premium late fee forgiveness or eligibility enrollment request will need to be brought in writing to the Executive Committee.

X. AGENDA ITEMS NEXT MEETING

Information

Executive Committee Members and others may suggest items for consideration at the next meeting scheduled for October 20, 2021 via Zoom.

- Monthly Financial Review, Anthem update, LiveHealth Online update, EmpiRx update and ConsumerMedical updates.
- Air ambulance program presentation if claims data warrants it.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.