

MINUTES

PUBLIC AGENCY COALITION ENTERPRISE (PACE)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 23, 2022

2:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LIVINGSTON, CITY OF
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
SUPERIOR COURT OF CA, MENDOCINO COUNTY
TRUCKEE DONNER RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT
UPLAND, CITY OF

Lam Silva, Non-Officer Member*
Jennifer Bower, **President**
Kim Turner, **Secretary/Treasurer**
David Faris, **Vice President**
Theresa Doyle, Non-Officer Member

MANAGERS:

KEENAN & ASSOCIATES

Peter McNamara
Stacey Comerchero
Nancy Schott

OTHERS:

KEENAN & ASSOCIATES

Dayna Gowan
Laurie LoFranco
Chris Jordan

ANTHEM

Joelle Jarmillo

*Not in attendance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – February 23, 2022

Presented by Jennifer Bower

Action
2022-012

Motion to approve the February 23, 2022 agenda: 1. David Faris and 2. Kim Turner. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 26, 2022 **Action**
2022-013
Presented by Jennifer Bower

Motion to approve the January 26, 2022 Minutes: 1. Kim Turner and 2. David Faris. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE **Information**
2022-014
Presented by E. Peter McNamara

The Roster of Public Agencies Form (outlines Board Members who have joined and left the Board) and Amendment of a Joint Powers Agreement Form (outlines agencies who have joined the JPA) were reviewed. PACE Management sends these forms to the Secretary of State.

Flyers outlining the EmpiRx program for free glucose meters were reviewed. The flyers will be sent to the Full Board for distribution to Anthem/EmpiRx members.

VII. FINANCIAL

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW **Information**
2022-015
Presented by E. Peter McNamara

The Monthly Financial Review as of January 31, 2022 was reviewed. Weekly Anthem claims have been running approx. \$236,000, within budget projections, and the Q1 MCSIG deficit recoupment payment was made. Agencies are encouraged to send premium payments via wire transfer rather than by USPS to avoid possible USPS service delays.

PACE INVESTMENT POLICY FOR LAIF ACCOUNT **Action**
2022-016
Presented by E. Peter McNamara

The proposed PACE investment policy was reviewed. Sam Mel-Chan indicated SETECH would prefer to have approx. \$250,000 on average in the PACE checking account to meet PACE's obligations and the rest could be swept into LAIF after each PACE check run. To allow for maximum flexibility yet still follow standard accounting practices, the specific \$250,000 amount is not written to the investment policy.

Motion to approve the Investment Policy as drafted: 1. Kim Turner and 2. David Faris. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

ANTHEM UPDATE **Information**
2022-017
Presented by Joelle Jarmillo

The January 2022 Anthem utilization report was not available for this meeting due to data upload issues. As soon as it is available, it will be sent to PACE Management.

Anthem's new virtual primary care program (VPC) was reviewed and will be accessed through the Sydney Health mobile app as is the LiveHealth Online (LHO) program. A member will answer questions on Sydney to determine if the member should be directed to VPC or LHO for care. VPC can be used for routine/preventative care, minor urgent care and chronic condition management issues whereas LiveHealth

providers can address physical urgent care as well as behavioral health concerns. While there is not an additional administrative fee per month for VPC, claims will be processed as telemedicine claims and factor in to PACE's experience ratings. Peter McNamara requested Joelle Jarmillo bring sample primary care claims costs to the next Executive Committee Meeting for consideration. Virtual Primary Care is not intended to replace LiveHealth Online.

An email from Anthem regarding the optional feature of online ordering of COVID test kits was reviewed. Each test box contains two tests at a cost of approx. \$28 to PACE. There is no administrative fee to turn on the program, although the cost of the tests will be processed as health claims. With the availability of COVID tests in stores, reimbursement by Anthem for up to 8 kits and test kits being provided by some counties at no cost, the Executive Committee decided to wait to turn on the online ordering feature to avoid the possibility of unnecessarily increasing claims costs. The Executive Committee will revisit the issue again in September or October to determine if the online ordering feature should be turned on as we get closer to the winter season. Peter McNamara suggested PACE could include a small cost factor to cover the claims costs of home tests purchased by members in the 2023 renewal calculations.

Joelle Jarmillo indicated Anthem would be contacting PACE regarding payment options for the current outstanding \$1,800,000 claims cost invoice, cumulative from January 1, 2022 – February 21, 2022, as a single payment or spacing payments out over several payments without interest. Peter McNamara indicated PACE would be spacing payments out.

ANCILLARY UPDATES

**Information
2022-018**

Presented by E. Peter McNamara and Stacey Comerchero

The LiveHealth Online January 2022 utilization report was reviewed. In January there were 11 new registrations increasing total cumulative registrations to 315. Members need register only once for the LHO program. The providers continue to receive high ratings from members.

The EmpiRx January 2022 utilization report was reviewed. Specialty drug claims were responsible for 75% of total claims costs and generated by 24 separate members out of approx. 1100 Anthem employee lives. PACE Management has been in conversation with EmpiRx regarding an ongoing high cost claim for a monthly infusion therapy of \$90k per month. Peter McNamara will be meeting with EmpiRx regarding this ongoing claim and inquiring if there are options for offering this specific infusion therapy in a less costly setting.

In the future, PACE might want to consider adopting a policy around specialty/boutique drug coverage and bioequivalents. For example, if a more expensive specialty drug is preferred by a member, but there is a doctor approved bioequivalent available, the plan would pay only the bioequivalent cost and the member would be responsible for the balance if the specialty drug is preferred. If there is only a single specialty drug available that will be effective for a member, the plan would pay for it as originally prescribed.

Jennifer Bower requested PACE Management monitor the high cost drug claims and be thinking about a potential policy before the issue becomes critical. This will be an ongoing discussion at a future Executive Committee meeting. Kim Turner would like the Executive Committee to also consider including a policy for generic vs. brand name drugs. The plan might pay for the cost of an identically formulated generic drug and the member would pay the balance if the original branded version is desired. The goal would be to frame the conversation around controlling health plan costs for all for the long term rather than a short term cost reduction effort.

ConsumerMedical is hosting a Behavioral Health Support Webinar on March 2, 2022; a flyer was included with the February Wellness Newsletter sent to PACE groups by Dayna Gowan. Candi Fiorvanti will be attending the March Executive Committee Meeting to present the PACE 2021 utilization report. There will be a ConsumerMedical 101 overview webinar in March. It will be recorded and sent to Full Board Members to send to their Anthem members once available .

WELLNESS UPDATES

**Information
2022-019**

Presented by Dayna Gowan

An update on the PACE 2022 Health Management Program was reviewed. There have been 115 registrations for the program as of February 23, 2022 and she has met with two of the new agencies to provide more information on the program. The Wellness Advisory Committee met on February 9, 2022 with 22 participants from 14 agencies attending. The first behavioral change challenge will begin March 1, 2022.

PACE WEBSITE

**Action
2022-020**

Presented by E. Peter McNamara

The PACE website development Scope of Work was reviewed. The site development is approx. \$7,000 and \$25/per month to host/maintain the site. The Executive Committee is very interested in having a website developed. More information will be available at the March Executive Committee Meeting. The goal is to have the website live by July 1, 2022.

Motion to approve development of the PACE website per the Statement of Work: 1. Kim Turner and 2. David Faris. Motion unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

PACE NEW MEMBER ACTIVITY

**Information
2022-021**

Presented by E. Peter McNamara

There was one request received for evaluation since the last Executive Committee Meeting.

1. City of Big Bear Lake – 66 eligible employees with 3 waivers. An 18 month rate was quoted to renew January 1, 2023. Laurie LoFranco indicated they may be joining PACE effective July 1, 2022.

The Palos Verdes Library District quotation was discussed at the January Executive Committee Meeting; however, they will not be joining PACE because Kaiser was unable to provide a quote as the District does not meet the required minimum number of 51 lives.

IX. INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Information

There were no Executive Committee comments.

MANAGER COMMENTS

Information

There were no Manager comments.

X. AGENDA ITEMS NEXT MEETING

Information

Executive Committee Members and others may suggest items for consideration at the next meeting scheduled for March 23, 2022 via Zoom.

- Monthly Financial Review, Anthem update, LiveHealth Online update, EmpiRx update and ConsumerMedical update.
- PACE website design update.
- ConsumerMedical 2021 utilization report.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.