

**State Health Benefits Program**  
**Plan Design Committee**  
**Open Session Minutes: December 21, 2022**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided and filed with and prominently posted in the offices of the Secretary of State. The notice was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 10, 2021, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 15, 2021. Updates regarding this Teams meeting were sent to the Secretary of State and posted to the Division's Website on November 4, 2022.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Program Plan Design Committee of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held as a video recording on Teams meeting.

Resolution to go into Executive Session to request/receive attorney-client advice from the Deputy Attorney General.

Acting Secretary Fields took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call**

Board Members:

Andrea Spalla (Chair)

John Megariotis

Justin Zimmerman, Chief of Staff, Department of Banking and Insurance

Julie Diaz

Kimberly Holmes

Lynn Azarchi

Michael Zanyor, NJSTFA

Kevin Lyons, NJ State PBA

Robert Little, AFSCME Department of Research

Patrick Nowlan, AAUP – AFT (Chair)

James McAsey

David Kruger

Kelly Fields, Acting Secretary

Sonia Rivera-Perez

Nikki Ludwig

Binsy Francis

Joanne Garsik

Rachel Goldberg

### **PDC Meeting Minutes**

Board Member Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2022. Co-Chair Megariotis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

### **Division Updates**

Sonia Rivera-Perez presented the Medicare Advantage (MA) contract extension for the State Health Benefits Program and School Employees Health Benefits Program, set to begin on January 1, 2023 and expire on December 31, 2024. Various dental providers will have a MA extension, set to begin January 1, 2023 and expire December 31, 2023. Technical and professional services for the pharmacy manager program will have a MA extension beginning January 1, 2023 and run through 2024. Ms. Rivera-Perez stated the division is working with PERC to request appointment of our super conciliator; request was sent on December 16, 2022. Nikki Ludwig stated that as of December 5, 2022, 12 local government locations have left/are planning to leave SHBP between November 1, 2022 and February 1, 2023. 35 new locations are coming in across the state and school employees.

### **Horizon Presentation/Overview of NovaWell**

Joanne Garsik of Horizon presented a brief overview on the behavioral health program for state members. Horizon has seen a 40% increase in the need of behavioral health space; access, availability, stigma and costs being major factors. Rachel Goldberg touched base on a virtual peer support program, providing 24/7 support, as well as the statewide expansion of Horizon's integrated system of care solution. Ms. Goldberg presented an overview on NovaWell; a new organization and affiliate of Horizon. NovaWell consists of 4 products- Nova Clinical, Nova Connect, Nova Community Care and Nova Network.

### **Executive Session**

Committee member Kimberly Holmes made a motion to go into Executive session and Committee member John Megariotis seconded the motion. All committee members voted in favor.

### **Adjournment**

Chairperson Spalla made a motion to adjourn. John Megariotis seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly Fields*

Kelly Fields  
Acting Secretary, SHBP-PDC