

State Health Benefits Commission
Open Session Minutes
January 12, 2022

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided through the annual notice of the schedule of regular meetings of the Commission filed with and prominently posted in the offices of the Secretary of State. The 2022 annual meeting schedule was mailed to the Secretary of State on December 10, 2021, and Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 15, 2021. Updates regarding the telephonic meeting were sent to the Secretary of State, the Star Ledger, the Trenton Times and posted to the division's website on January 5th, 2022.

The meeting of the State Health Benefits Commission of New Jersey was called to order on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 10 am. Due to health and safety concerns for the public regarding COVID-19, the meeting of January 12, 2021, was not be held in-person and instead be conducted via teleconference.

The text of Resolution A (Closed Session) and Resolution B (Executive Session) were read in their entirety in the event that the Commission desires, at any point in the meeting, to approve a motion to go into Closed or Executive session.

Acting Secretary Nicole Ludwig led the pledge of allegiance. Acting Secretary Ludwig took Roll Call and established that a quorum was present.

Commissioners:

Susanne Culliton, representing State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio

Gail Simon, representing Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance Marlene Caride

Deirdre Webster Cobb

Jennifer Higgins: AFL/CIO

Dudley Burdge, Representative for Local Government Employees

Also Present:

Porter Strickler, Deputy Attorney General

Theresa Williams, Division of Pensions and Benefits

Nicole Ludwig, Division of Pensions and Benefits

TABLED APPEALS

Acting Secretary Ludwig advised that there were tabled appeals from previous commissions. Commissioner Higgins made a motion to move to closed session. Commissioner Burdge seconded. All voted in favor.

The following case, due to HIPAA regulations, were heard in Closed Session:

Case #2022011201: This closed session appeal was regarding an appeal for an overage handicap dependent. The reason for tabling was to allow time for the Acting Secretary Ludwig to reach out to the employer to verify that the notification that the child was aging off the coverage was provided to the member in a timely manner. The employer verified that the COBRA notification did go out, but due to staffing issues the notification that the child was aging off the coverage was not sent to them.

Commissioner Culliton made a motion to move to Executive Session. Commissioner Burdge seconded. All voted in favor. The motion was accepted.

Upon return from Executive Session, Commissioner Simon made a motion to give the member the opportunity to apply to continue coverage for their overage handicap dependent, based on the fact that the employer did not provide he required notice. Commissioner Hagen seconded. All voted in favor.

Case #2022011202: This closed session appeal was regarding an appeal to allow the member to drop health care coverage and only carry the prescription plan, and the member was requesting a reimbursement of the cost of the health care plan that they paid for the year. As a part of the appeal being tabled, Acting Secretary Ludwig was asked to see if the coverage had been utilized during the 2021 year. An outline was provided for the claims that were paid, and claims were paid through to May of 2021.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion to move to Executive Session. Commissioner Culliton seconded. All voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Commissioner Simon made a motion to deny the appeal and reimbursement for the member. Commissioner Webster Cobb seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

Case #2022011203: This closed session appeal was regarding an appeal to apply for overage handicap coverage for their child who has not been covered under coverage through their employer since 2018. The location did not participate with the state health benefits, and at the time that the child reached the age of 26 and were aging off, the employer notified the member. While the member was waiting for approval under their employer's health coverage they sought their own private coverage. They were later approved for overage handicap coverage through the employer's coverage, but the family chose to continue with the private coverage. The member stated that the employer did not advise that they had to have continuous coverage. The member is now requesting coverage, as the private plan will not cover a needed procedure.

Commissioner Simon made a motion to move to Executive Session. Commissioner Burdge seconded. All voted in favor.

Upon return from Executive Session, Commissioner Burdge made a motion to table the case until it could be determined if the employer gave misinformation. Commissioner Higgins seconded. All voted in favor. The appeal was tabled.

Commissioner Burdge made a motion to return to Open Session. Commissioner Webster Cobb seconded. All voted in favor.

Chairperson Simon made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hagen seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Ludwig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Ludwig
Acting Secretary
State Health Benefits Commission