

**Minutes**  
**Healthcare Benefit Program Governing Board**  
**8/18/2023**

The meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 11:03 AM  
Adjourned: 11:56 AM

**Members Present:** Lisa Brandl, Chairperson, Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer,  
Lisa Takach, HR Director, Iasmina Giurgiev, Analyst

**Others Present:** City of Vancouver: Natasha Douglas/VHA, Nena Cook, Natasha Douglas  
Davidson Benefits Planning: Erica Riggs, Deby Butzer

- I. Minutes:
  - a. Approve 7/18/2023 minutes

**Action Taken:** Natasha Ramras made a motion to approve the 7/18/2023 Governing Board meeting minutes, Lisa Takach seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

- I. Communications:
  - a. none

- II. Reports:
  - a. none

- III. Old Business:

The Board reviewed the oversight responsibilities for the Governing Board for the self-insured plan, as required by the State of Washington. They also discussed adding to the Board Charter to include the oversight of the Kaiser fully insured plan too. This objective is to provide parity as closely as possible between the two plans. The Governing Board will review the charter and Business: bylaws before moving forward. This item is tabled until a future meeting.

- IV. New Business:

- a. Regence Summary of Changes – Janny @ Regence

**Hearing Instruments** - Motion to accept the hearing instruments and services mandated benefit to cover hearing instruments up to \$3,000 per ear every 36 months; including hearing services such as bone conduction hearing devices, initial assessment, fitting, adjustment, auditory training, and ear molds.  
accept the plan design.

Motion by Lisa Takas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iasmina Giurgiev motion passes unanimously

**HSA deductibles** – to be discussed later, voting postponed

**Reproductive Health Care Services:** Due to mandate, In-Network cost sharing barriers have been removed or lessened for these services, pharmacy. Motion to accept the plan design by Nena Cook ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Iasmina Giurgiev, motion passes unanimously.

**DME – Continuous Glucose Monitoring CGM** – This item was voted on and passed in the 8/18/2023 meeting, but the vote was not captured in the original meeting minutes. A motion was made to accept the Regence language to allow these costs to be eligible on the medical or the pharmacy plan benefits. A motion was made by Lisa and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Natasha. Motion passed unanimously.

**Preventive Care & Immunization** – motion to accept updated language to include coverage as required by state or federal guidance for a specific time because of a government declared disease outbreak, epidemic, or other public health emergency, by Lisa Takach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Iasmina Giurgiev, motion passed unanimously.

**Preventive Care for Chronic Conditions** – Motion to decline the language change which includes coverage as required by state or federal guidance for a specific time because of a government declared disease outbreak, epidemic, or other public health emergency, by Lisa Takach 2<sup>nd</sup> Natasha

**GLP-1 Drugs for diabetes** – Motion to accept the implement of Prior Authorization process for weight loss and obesity drugs, this only impacts 3 CoV and 3 VHA members, by Lisa Ramras, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Takas, motion passed.

- b. Kaiser Summary of Changes – Davidson  
No changes
- c. Kaiser Renewal – Davidson  
Renewals reviewed and Options for deductible and copay changes on HMO plan only.
- d. General/Other Renewal Progress
- e. Board Meeting materials storage
  - i. What is the best way to store and share materials during board meetings? Tabled for later discussion.
- f. Plan Design Change Options  
Discussion Leaders: Davidson Benefits Planning: Erica Riggs

Discussion: Erica presented some optional plan design changes for the Kaiser plan.

- V. General Information:
  - a. None

#### Davidson Benefits Planning Deliverables for Next Meeting

- Prepare a comparison of the rates and benefits for Kaiser and Regence.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM