

FINAL
MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD
HELD TELEPHONICALLY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 103 (MURPHY)
November 16, 2022

Members participating: Herbert Ames; Alison Birzon (Cigna – joined at 10:10); Gary Cupo; Margaret Koller; Robert Morrow (United); Thomas Pownall (Aetna Health); Gale Simon (DOBI); Tony Taliaferro (AmeriHealth).

Others participating: Ellen DeRosa, Executive Director; Chanell McDevitt, Deputy Executive Director; Rosaria Lenox, Managing Financial Officer; Jeffrey Posta, Deputy Attorney General.

I. Call to Order

E. DeRosa called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. She announced that notice of the meeting was provided to three newspapers of general circulation and the State House Press Corps, and posted at the Department of Banking and Insurance (“DOBI”), on the DOBI website, and at the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

E. DeRosa noted that, pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 2, as a result of the state of emergency and public health emergency declared by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2020 through Executive Order 103, as subsequently extended,¹ due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SEH Board’s regularly scheduled meeting is being held entirely telephonically rather than at the Board’s offices in Trenton. She stated that, in accordance with P.L. 2020 c. 11, electronic notice of the meeting and the means by which the public could attend the meeting telephonically was posted on the Board’s website, and issued electronically to all known interested parties. E. DeRosa determined that a quorum was present, and that voting would be by roll call.

Members of the public were asked to identify themselves and are listed at the end of these minutes.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Minutes of October 19, 2022 – Open and Executive Session

T. Pownall made a motion, seconded by M. Koller, to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2022, without amendment. By roll call vote, the motion carried, with H. Ames abstaining.

¹ Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-3(b), a Public Health Emergency lasts for 30 days unless extended, while States of Emergency declared in accordance with N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq. remain in effect until declared ended by a subsequent executive order. The Public Health Emergency was continuously extended through multiple executive orders until E.O. 244 (Murphy), issued June 4, 2021, declared the Public Health Emergency ended. However, Governor Murphy has not yet ended the State of Emergency established by E.O. 103 (Murphy). Thus, the Board continues to meet remotely, and public access is limited to telephonic means. (Notably, E.O. 280, issued January 11, 2022, resulted in another Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19, which was extended by E.O. 288 on February 10, 2022, then lifted by E.O. 292 on March 4, 2022.)

M. Koller made a motion, seconded by T. Pownall, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2022, without amendments. By roll call vote, the motion carried, with H. Ames abstaining.

IV. Report of Staff -- Expense Report

R. Lenox presented the November Expense Report, totaling \$1,760.00 for Q1FY2023 Division of Law charges. She suggested the Board transfer \$1,760 from its Money Market account to its Checking account to pay these expenses.

T. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by M. Koller, to approve the expenses on the November report, and transfer of \$1,760.00 from the Board's Wells Fargo Money Market account to its Wells Fargo Checking account to pay the expense. By roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

V. Additional Meeting – Policy Forms

E. DeRosa suggested the Board schedule an additional meeting before the end of the month with the expectation of discussing standard plan policy form amendments. The Board agreed to meet November 30th at 11:00A.M. E. DeRosa stated she would send out public notice of the meeting, with an agenda indicating discussion of standard plan amendments.

VI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VII. Executive Session

E. DeRosa requested that the Board move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. She indicated she believed the Board would have no need to take any action in a subsequent Open Session, other than to close the meeting.

T. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by R. Morrow, for the Board to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, with no expectation of further action upon return to Open Session. By roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

[The Open Session ended at 10:13 A.M.]

[The Open Session resumed at 10:23 A.M.]

VII. Close of Meeting

M. Koller made a motion, seconded by T. Pownall, to adjourn the meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

[The meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.]

Public known to be in attendance: There were no known public attendees.