

APPROVED

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD
AT THE OFFICES OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
July 30, 1996**

Members present: Gale Simon, *Vice Chair* (DOBI); Linda Ilkowitz (Guardian); Bryan Markowitz.

Members participation by telephone conference: James Donnellan (Prudential); Justin Fiedler (BCBSNJ); Charlotte Furman (Anthem Health and Life); Eileen Gallagher (NYLCare); Amy Mansue (HIP of New Jersey); Dutch Vanderhoof; Eric Wilmer (Celtic Life); B. Wiseman (DOHSS).

Others present: Kevin O'Leary, Executive Director; Wardell Sanders, SEH Program Assistant Director.

Others participating by telephone conference: DAG Josh Lichtblau (DOL); Debbie Cieslik (BCBSNJ).

I. Call to Order

The Executive Director called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. and announced that notice of the meeting had been published in three newspapers and posted at the Department of Insurance and the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. He noted that some members of the meeting were participating via telephone conference and noted that those members could be heard over a speakerphone. A quorum was present.

II. Report of the Legal Committee

The Executive Director reported that the Legal Committee had met to consider whether the SEH Board should continue to interpret the SEH Act to prohibit carriers from offering non-standard health benefits plans directly to new small employer groups, but to allow carriers to offer such coverage through an association, out-of-State trust, or multiple employer arrangement.

** L. Ilkowitz made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice. B. Markowitz seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.*

III. Executive Session

IV. Open Session

The Executive Director reported that the SEH Board would proceed with proposing amendments to its regulations previously approved by the SEH Board at its June 19, 1996 meeting. He noted that the SEH Board would continue to interpret the SEH Act to prohibit carriers from offering non-standard health benefits plans directly to new small employer groups, but to allow carriers to offer such coverage on a guaranteed issue basis to members of an association, out-of-State trust, or multiple employer arrangement to which the plan was issued.

The SEH Board agreed to revised language in the draft Buyer's Guide regarding the availability of non-standard health benefits plans.

V. Close of Meeting

** A. Mansue made a motion to close the meeting. J. Fiedler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.*