

FINAL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY INDIVIDUAL HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAM BOARD
HELD TELEPHONICALLY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 103 (MURPHY)
February 8, 2022

Directors participating: Taylor Kopelan (Horizon); Robert Morrow (United); Colleen Picklo; Thomas Pownall (Aetna); Gale Simon (DOBI); Tony Taliaferro (AmeriHealth).

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

I. Call to Order

E. DeRosa called the meeting of the IHC Board to order at 10:00 A.M. She announced that notice of the meeting had been posted at the Department of Banking and Insurance (“DOBI”), on the DOBI website, at the Office of the Secretary of State, submitted to the State House Press Corps, and published in three newspapers of general circulation in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

E. DeRosa noted that, pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 2, as a result of the public health emergency and state of emergency declared by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2020 through Executive Order 103, subsequently extended,¹ due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IHC Board’s regularly scheduled meeting was being held telephonically, and not 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 a quorum was present. She stated that voting would be by roll call.

Members of the public were asked to identify themselves; public attendees, if any, are identified at the end of these minutes.

II. Change in DOBI Representative

E. DeRosa stated that Philip Gennace has resigned from the Department of Banking and Insurance, and that Gale Simon will be serving as the DOBI representative until further notice.

III. Minutes – January 11, 2022

T. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by R. Morrow, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2022 without amendment. By roll call vote, the motion carried.

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 (Murphy, January 11, 2022) resulted in another Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19.)

IV. Report of Staff – Expense Report

R. Lenox presented the expense report for February 2022, totaling \$19,299.45, which included the IHC Board's portion of staff salaries and other shared expenses payable to the Small Employer Health Benefits (SEH) Program at \$12,053.95, expenses from WithumSmith+Brown (WSB) for FY2021 audit activity at \$7,210.50, and half of the cost of her annual CPA license fee (at \$35.00).

R. Lenox stated that the Board can approve an internal transfer by the DOBI fiscal office of the amount due from the IHC Board's DOBI account to the SEH Board's DOBI account for the salaries and shared expenses. She recommended a transfer of \$7,245.50 from the Board's Wells Fargo Money Market account to its Wells Fargo Checking account to pay the remaining expenses.

C. Picklo made a motion, seconded by G. Simon, to: approve the expenses; pay the shared salaries and other shared expenses via a transfer by the DOBI of \$12,053.95 from the IHC Board's account to the SEH Board's account within the DOBI; and, make a transfer of \$7,245.50 from the Board's Money Market account to its Checking account at Wells Fargo for the purpose of paying the remaining February operating expenses.

V. Close of Meeting

C. Picklo made a motion, seconded by T. Pownall, to adjourn the meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried.

[The meeting ended at 10:10 A.M.]

Identified Public Attendees:

Robert Axelrod, Oscar Garden State Health Ins. Corp.²

² Robert Axelrod is a member of the Small Employer Health Benefits Program Board of Directors, as are several of the Directors on the IHC Board; however, there was not a quorum of the SEH Board present, and all discussions and actions at the meeting concerned the specific public business of the IHC Board.