

OHA Advisory Committee Meeting
October 25, 2022
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 pm
Via Teams
Minutes

Attendance: **Members in attendance:** Lynne Ide, Dina Berlyn, Mark DeWaele, Steve Wanczyk-Karp
Absent: Susan Halpin
OHA Staff: Ted Doolittle, Adam Prizio, Sean King

Meeting convened at 12:01 pm

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Motion to approve October 25, 2022 agenda; Lynne Ide motioned to approve, and Steve Wanczyk-Karp seconded; No discussion, no nays, motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve July 26, 2022 minutes: Steve Wanczyk-Karp motioned to approve, and Lynne Ide seconded; No discussion; no nays, motion carried unanimously.

2. Administration Report

a) **Budget**

- No budget news.

b) **Personnel**

- OHA is still working to fill the vacant AA position. Interviews are wrapping up with two finalists this week out of 495 total applicants.
- OHA is also working on creating and filling a new position in response to Public Act 22-47 that added a position to OHA staff and required OHA to designate a lead on children's issues, particularly related to behavioral and mental health issues. Currently, Sean King has been designated as the lead in the interim. The new position will be responsible for case management duties, and classifications being considered include attorney, paralegal, nurse, social worker, human services advocate. OHA will need OPM to approve the classification.
- OHA is also anticipating an uptick in volume as new enhanced notifications begin to be issued by carriers. Currently we are working with CID to issue the language approved by OHA to be included on notices. State Comptroller is already issuing updated notices to employees on state health plan.
- New attorney, Sarah Carr, has hit the ground running and working out very well for the agency.

c) **Auditors of Public Accounts**

- Audit is technically still ongoing. We are just waiting for results at this time.

3. Data Reports

- Ted reviews data report.
 - OHA is continuing to return to pre-pandemic numbers in terms of volume. Savings were relatively high this quarter compared to last quarter, driven by a couple of larger cases, including one over \$700K and a couple other 6 figure cases. Average savings was over \$2500 per closed case.

4. COVID Update

- One item of interest tied to the public health emergency is the unwinding of eligibility extensions for Medicaid enrollments and redetermination process at the end of the PHE. DSS has determined that the unwinding process will be spread across a 12 month period, with the members who have gone the longest without a redetermination to be designated for the first group. OHA will be monitoring the process and be available for questions and to assist enrollees who may be losing their Medicaid benefits as a result of their redeterminations.

5. Other

- Lynne Ide asked how OHA is setting priorities for the next legislative session. Ted advised that OHA is working on issues with the Prescription Drug Affordability Working Group, in addition to addressing the growth in the stop loss market, which is expanding to employers with as few as five employees. Some of the issues with stop loss plans include the ability of carriers to cherry pick healthier employer groups to avoid greater liabilities. This diverts sicker employee groups into the fully insured market, making that market more expensive for participants. OHA is hoping to take a lead role in improving regulation of the stop loss market in the state, which will likely be a multi-year initiative. A complete formal legislative agenda will be circulated to the Advisory Committee.
- Lynne Ide asked about the anticipated meeting regarding insurance rates. Ted advised that OHA is working with CID, OHS, DPH and others to organize the forum, which is currently scheduled for December 1, 2022.
- Dina Berlyn raised an issue regarding the lack of independent fusion centers in the state and the stark differences in cost between independent facilities and hospital owned facilities. She advocated for site neutral pricing of procedures that would reduce these pricing disparities between facilities.

Lynne Ide motioned to adjourn, and Dina Berlyn seconded; meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24 at 12:00 PM