



CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

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"An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer"
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 13, 2022 at 3:00 pm

The meeting of the Teachers' Retirement Board was called to order at 3:13p.m. by Chairperson, Clare Barnett on Wednesday April 13, 2022.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clare Barnett, Chair, Retired Teacher Member
William Murray, Vice-Chair, Retired Teacher Member
Joslyn Delancey, Active Teacher Member
John Flores, Office of the State Treasurer
Lisa Heavner, Public Member
Charles Higgins, Public Member
Jonathan Johnson, Public Member
Stephen McKeever, Active Teacher Member, AFT
Lisa Mosey, Active Teacher Member
Keith Norton, State Department of Education

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Gregory Messner, Office of Policy and Management
Kathleen Holt, Public Member
Thomas Nicholas, Active Teacher Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Helen Sullivan, Administrator
Charlene Hill, Assistant Administrator / State Prg. Mgr.
Amanda Harley, Retirement Benefits Officer
Naomi Calvi, IT Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alisha Sullivan, Robinson & Cole	Barbara Kmetz	Noreen Scafuri
Terry DeMattie, Segal Consulting	Rita McDougald-Campbell	Marilyn Tracy
DeDe Raybuck, United HealthCare	Susan Schmidek	Gayle Stewart
Karen Nolen, OPM	Jack Tyrrell	Patty
Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA	Joan Holley	Sue and Ken
Bill Myers	Alex Kajdi	Melinda
Walt Ciplinski	Jane Wilson	Mary Hendrickson
Kathy Hennessey	Bill Bray	Miriam Lappen
	Anna Vita	Paul Maciejewski
	Barbara Oppedisano	Charlotte Cooper
	Dawn	K Werth

Call to Order: Chairperson, Clare Barnett

1. Consideration and Approval of the February 9, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes.

A motion was moved by Charlie Higgins and seconded by Keith Norton to approve the meeting minutes for February 9, 2022. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

2. Agency Report provided by Helen Sullivan, Administrator.

Retiree Health Insurance:

Helen provided an update on the retiree health insurance. There was a CMS file issue that impacted the supplement plan, causing the 20% to not be paid. The issue is being corrected. Any members who paid the 20% charge, can get reimbursed.

A few members were re-enrolled by their municipality into their active employer group plan in error. Those members were referred to their employer group to let them know they had inadvertently re-enrolled them into their plan.

A small group of members were having an issue with the cost for the Synthroid medication. On the previous plan with Express Scripts (ESI), it was considered a house generic so ESI would substitute the Synthroid and charge a Tier 1 copay for mail order. If it was listed as “dispensed as written” they would charge a Tier 3 copay. The brand copay for the current plan is Tier 2. Overall, now all members are getting the brand at Tier 2, and they can get the generic at the Tier 1, 5% copay, so it is consistent across the board for everyone.

A letter was sent out to members within a 30-mile radius of using any UMass facility to let our MA members know about the change in the network. This was in addition to the letter that was sent out to members who had disenrolled that may have been interested in coming back on the plan.

We are working on a couple issues with vision and hearing that are left over from the Anthem plan. Anthem moved over to a new platform and were having some issues paying claims on the Medicare Supplement. Amanda is working with members who are still impacted to make sure those benefits do get paid out.

We extended the open enrollment period for members who may have disenrolled because of UMass. We had 81 members move over to the Medicare Advantage and 15 members move over to the Medicare Supplement. The United and TRB health team assisted members with questions regarding enrollment and CMS regulations.

Helen also provided information on a few other issues which also impact less than 1% of the retiree population. These issues include gym membership, hearing aids and drug costs.

Helen provided internal statistics for February and March. Some of those statistics included 52 emails were sent to the escalation team, 28 of those were for prescription drug issues, 10 for benefits, 6 for network, 3 for prior authorization, a couple were for crossovers. 337 emails were received which is a drastic change from the thousands received during open enrollment. The United team has been working on approximately 655 voicemails. In January there were 13,702 calls to the United customer service line. The average answer time was 41 seconds. In February and March there were approximately 8,000 calls each month and the

average answer times were 1.83 and 2.94 seconds and average call time was around 10 minutes. Optum average answer time was 28 seconds and average call time of 38 minutes.

A discussion followed.

Staffing:

Keith Petit accepted a position as Assistant Division Director at the Comptrollers. We are interviewing for a new Fiscal Administrative Manager.

Legislation:

TRB legislation looks as if it's going through. There are some questions that have come up, but we don't seem to be experiencing any problems.

A discussion followed.

3. Consideration and Approval to add proposed language to the Legislative package.

Helen advised that there has been some discussion with an entity regarding new language the entity is proposing to add in the legislative package. Another meeting is expected to take place therefore, no action was taken on this item at this time.

A discussion followed.

4. Consideration and Approval of the Appeal Subcommittee recommendation.

Charlie Higgins provided a summary of the appeal request heard by the appeal subcommittee from a claimant requesting to be permitted to remain in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) during their current employment in a new position they have taken. The appeal subcommittee's recommendation was to deny the appeal due to a determination that the claimant is not qualified to continue to participate in TRS because they no longer qualify as a defined term "teacher" within the meaning of the statute.

A discussion followed.

A motion was moved by Charlie Higgins and seconded by Bill Murray to approve the subcommittee's recommendation to deny the appeal requesting to continue participation in the TRS. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

5. Consideration and Approval of the Administrator's actions regarding:

- a. Granting of service retirement benefits for the months of February and March 2022.
- b. Survivor benefits for the months of February and March 2022.
- c. Reports & recommendations of the Medical Review Committee regarding applications for Disability Payments as presented to the Medical Review Committee at the February and March 2022 meetings.

A motion was moved by Bill Murray and seconded by Steve McKeever to approve the granting of service retirement, survivor benefits and applications for a disability allowance for the months of February and March 2022. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

MATTERS FOR THE BOARD INFORMATION:

Retirement Statistics for the months of February and March 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Gayle Stewart advised of a prescription drug cost issue she is experiencing.

Bill Myers thanked the board, TRB staff and the appeal subcommittee for their work. He also thanked United Healthcare for the good experience he has had with the plan.

Walt Ciplinski advised of a prescription drug cost issue he is experiencing, and which has been escalated but he has not heard back in several weeks.

Jane Wilson requested a breakdown of cost for the TRB prescription drug plan.

Melinda advised that she sent an email to the TRB last year and a month ago without a response. She would like to see an increase in the \$220 offset for those who are not Medicare eligible.

Susan Schmidek commented about AARP and whether she is being covered differently as AARP UHC Supplement versus the TRB plan.

Mary Hendrickson commented regarding testimony she submitted to the appropriations committee in this legislative session to amend SB-396, SB-405, and SB-107. She also asked that the TRB open lines of communication with retired teachers of CT.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other comments or announcements, a motion was moved by Charles Higgins and seconded by Steve McKeever to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor and the motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.