

**TRB BOARD MEETING
2021-11-03**

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2
3
4
5 Bill M.: Okay, I'm gonna call the TRB board meeting, uh, to start and, uh, we're first is
6 going to be, we're going to go into Executive Session.
7
8 Bruce B.: Bill, we need a motion to do that and you can...
9
10 Bill M.: Motion...
11
12 Bruce B.: ...and also we need to know who we need to invite in.
13
14 Bill M.: I don't have a list.
15
16 Keith: Bill, the, the list, um, if one of the board members would like to make a motion to
17 enter executive session with Bruce Barth, the Teacher's Retirement Board
18 attorney and Helen Sullivan, the Teacher's Retirement Board administrator.
19
20 Bill M.: Okay, let me...
21
22 Charles H.: So moved.
23
24 Greg M.: Second.
25
26 Bill M.: Who was that? Who moved?
27
28 Lisa M.: Charlie. Charlie.
29
30 Bill M.: Charlie, thank you and the second?
31
32 Keith N.: I'll second. Keith.
33
34 Bill M.: Keith, thank you, Keith. Okay. All, all those in favor of moving to executive
35 session say aye.
36
37 Charles H.: Aye.
38
39 Lisa M.: Aye.
40
41 John J.: Aye.
42
43 Lisa H.: Aye.
44
45 Bill M.: Okay. The board will go into executive session with, uh, with Helen also. Helen
46 Sullivan and with the attorney, Bruce Barth.

1
2 Female: Can you give me, um, audio? Can you give me, um, can you hook me up?
3
4 Helen S.: Okay. I'm in. Okay. Clare's calling. Keith, is everybody back in? Keith? Is
5 everyone back in?
6
7 Keith: Um, we have 11 participants back in, so most, most everybody is back in, yes.
8
9 Helen S.: Okay. I, for some reason, can't get video. Is there, can you, I know everyone can
10 hear me.
11
12 Keith: I am working on that.
13
14 Helen S.: Okay.
15
16 Keith: There's something wrong with the meeting. Give me two seconds on that one. I
17 just...
18
19 Helen S.: That's okay. As long as you can hear me and as long as we can start the board
20 meeting. I know Clare is working over. I'd like to kinda get it moving because I
21 know it's 3:40 and...
22
23 Lisa M.: Yeah, I can't get video either. Yeah.
24
25 Helen S.: It's okay.
26
27 Lisa M.: Yep.
28
29 Helen S.: Bill. Bill, are you in he-, are you in?
30
31 Bill M.: I'm here.
32
33 Female: Okay. I – yeah.
34
35 Bill M.: Can you hear me?
36
37 Helen S.: Yep, yep.
38
39 Bill M.: Okay. Fine.
40
41 Helen S.: I would say why don't we, um, go ahead and start the meeting. I'm trying to, uh...
42
43 Bill M.: I was thrown off a little bit because I saw you were in executive session. I didn't
44 realize she wasn't in our session. Okay. Uh...
45

1 Keith: Um, Helen. Helen and Bill, sorry. Before we start the meeting, actually, if we
2 could just disconnect for a second, um, in order to start the video, we have to
3 restart the meeting.
4
5 Bill M: We have to leave the meeting, is that what you're saying?
6
7 Keith: Yep and just come right back in.
8
9 Helen S.: Okay.
10
11 Clare B.: Do we have a motion for the minutes of the previous, uh, meeting on September,
12 the previous meeting's minutes?
13
14 Charles H.: Moved.
15
16 Female: Lisa M.
17
18 Bill M. Second.
19
20 Clare B.: Uh, all those in favor signify by saying aye.
21
22 Charles H. Aye.
23
24 Lisa M.: Aye.
25
26 Greg M.: Aye.
27
28 John F.: Aye.
29
30 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstention?
31
32 Keith N.: I abstain. I wasn't here last month.
33
34 Kathy H.: Yeah. I will abstain as well. Kathy Holt. I wasn't at the meeting.
35
36 Clare B.: Okay. The, uh, Agency report?
37
38 Helen S.: Sure. I'll start with the, uh, open enrollment. We started off – United, um,
39 United's team came to the CEA luncheon. Uh, they've done – been doing over
40 three weeks, uh, open enrollment meetings, uh, virtual and in person. They've
41 gone very, very well. Uh, the website is launched. Our website is updated. All our
42 written materials are ahead of schedule. Um, as I mentioned that we've been
43 getting great, uh, fe-, uh, feedback on the presentations and the communications,
44 um, that were going out. As I mentioned, there was, uh, we received some
45 feedback prior to meetings. Um, there was some information sent out that sort of,
46 uh, put a little impact on the Agency but we worked through that and, uh,

1 information was being sent out simultaneously, so, um, a lot of the calls and
2 emails slowed down, uh, pretty much stopped now that we've had the meetings. A
3 lot of the questions have been answered. Um, there are some that we're working
4 through, uh, you know, related to just, uh, non-information. Uh, people received
5 information before the meeting, uh, so I'm sure there's probably a few who
6 would, who would like some more. Uh, we had lots of great member feedback.
7 Actually, people were coming up to us. Uh, we managed to be in the field, uh, the
8 entire time, which was great. Uh, Teri was out there with us, as well as myself and
9 Amanda. Again, uh, the feedback has been wonderful. Uh, people seem to be very
10 receptive.

11
12 Uh, I will say that, you know, United, their team did a remarkable job during
13 COVID. We had to pivot and weave. We did not know what to expect. They were
14 adding in meetings, prepared for any overflow to adhere to CMS guidelines. They
15 were very, very well prepared. There was additional staff to greet people. There
16 were people on-site to answer pharmacy questions, network questions, gym
17 questions; very comprehensive. They had an AV team because we were
18 simultaneously running webinars with the in-person. They had an AV team of two
19 people, additional team members to, to help answer those questions and go
20 through. As I said, it's slowing down. Um, there's probably a, a few emails, uh,
21 that and, and calls that we're, that we're working on getting back to. Uh, with
22 some of that information going out prior to the, uh, mailings they kind of
23 [inaudible 2:52] information landed right in our lap, uh, not from us, uh, as I said,
24 it kinda bombarded the phones a little bit but once that information went out and
25 we were hearing from members, uh, we're working through it, so we just
26 identified, you know, any issues with, with member questions and again, there
27 may be a few follow-ups but, um, overall, I, I think we - we're doing a great job,
28 um, getting out there, uh, in the, you know, with everybody. Um, trying to think.

29
30 They did a, you know, there, there were some additional benefits to the Medicare
31 Advantage programs that, you know, we do have to explain to folks. Uh, I know
32 that there were a few comments made about speaking more about the Medicare
33 Advantage than the Medicare Sup but there were some additional programs that
34 were, you know, put out in handbags regarding, uh, some routine podiatry, some
35 house calls, some Life Alerts, uh, things like that. Um, all the presentations are
36 online. Everything is on our website as well as the UHC website. Uh, we're ahead
37 of schedule with the rest of our materials that are going out. Uh, I will emphasize,
38 uh, that if you want to sit and hear a recording, it is on our - it is on the website
39 and the UHC website, so take a look. We're updating everything for 2022. Uh, I
40 do want to thank staff. They jumped in to really track some of the phone calls and
41 again, once the meetings started and once people started getting things in the mail,
42 it went - it, it's flowing very nicely. We did a great clean-up job on some of that,
43 some of the mailings. We have the returns coming back to us, so we can track
44 them. It's always good that we want to keep ahead and try and find some of those
45 members who maybe moved a little bit and we didn't hear from them. I did want
46 to, uh, provide some staffing updates.

1
2 Uh, I'm very, very excited to, uh, let everybody know that the State Program
3 Manager, uh, Assistance Adminer-, Administrative – Assistant Administrator
4 position. We were able to finally, um, get through. Um, I can let you know that,
5 um, Charlene Hill has accepted that position and that we're working through the
6 rest of the, um, HR, you know, getting, getting just the 'i's, 'i's dotted and the 't's
7 crossed. Uh, very, very excited a-, about this. It's really going to help us, um, at
8 the Agency. She's been doing tremendous work, uh, and I'm thrilled. We, uh, also
9 filled the IT-I position. Um, a lovely, uh, person, [Naomi Calve 5:26]. She has
10 exceeded all of our expectations. She is, uh, jumping in there, um, and working on
11 getting some of our stuff updated for members. Um, as you know, we're really
12 trying to get virtual servers, get a web portal so members can get in and see what
13 they need to see, um, and grab what they need for information but that's about it.
14 It's a high-level overview. I'm sure I forgot a few things and, and I know it's
15 getting on to 4:00 and we're trying ta, um, muddle our way through it but, um,
16 again we will be, you know, following up with members, um, we'll be back in the
17 office next week, um, so if we didn't – if you didn't hear from us, you'll be
18 hearing from us and, uh, and thanks.

19
20 Clare B.: Thank you, Helen. I'm gonna kinda piggyback on your comments. Uh, just
21 information for the board, Helen's evaluation has been, uh, completed. That's
22 done by myself, um, you know, she's done a lot of outstanding work. I wish she
23 could, uh, fit all of the outstanding things she's done into the very narrow
24 confines of the State Employee, uh, the Evaluation Form. Um, when I think of all
25 the things that've gone on in the past year, you know, uh, from COVID on
26 through, uh, you know, opening the new office and digitalization of records and
27 just, you know, tremendous amount of, of really top-quality work. Helen, we
28 thank you for that. Uh, and, I want to thank also the Treasurer. Um, I – when last
29 we spoke about this I had told you how I'd talked to him and did make pit-, make
30 a big pitch for the teacher's getting the surplus money. We did get a very nice
31 portion of the surplus money. I believe it is somewhere between \$906M and
32 \$903M, so thank you to the Treasurer for that. He was listening to us. He also
33 gave some to the, uh, State Employee. She was able to do that when it reached a,
34 a very high number of the surplus. Um, and we're gonna be in discussions with
35 him, John Flores and myself and John Garrett soon. We've been tryin' to just to,
36 uh, talk about, um, you know, how, how to place this money now that we actually
37 have it.

38
39 I know that the Senators from Appropriations are also very interested in, in that
40 conversation and what the outcome will be, so, so that's going to happen. John's
41 working on it. Okay. Number, Item #4 on here, Approval of the COLAs, the
42 increase for people who retired on or after September 1, 1972. The 5.9, uh,
43 remember the Social Security did post a very high number for, um, you know,
44 COLAs and that will be the people who retired after September 1, 1992, um, and
45 then you have this second group that's on here who – people who joined the
46 system on or after July 1, 2007, and those people remember that was when we h-

1 accepted the big bond and then part of that was also making some adjustments
2 and changes to the COLA. Uh, John Garrett, you have anything to add to that, uh,
3 the COLA or Helen or... Hello?
4
5 Helen S.: No. I, I think we're good. I know that, um, we ran those COLA numbers, um,
6 again thanks to [Charlene 8:47] and we double-checked 'em with, uh, John and all
7 that information will be posted after, after the web, after our meeting.
8
9 Clare B.: John, question for you. I noticed on here that you don't have the pre-'92s. That's
10 not a huge population of people but I believe the law on that was quite clear that
11 they can't get less than 3 or more than 5, so I would assume theirs is going to be
12 5?
13
14 John G.: Yes ma'am. That's what I would suspect, yeah.
15
16 Clare B.: Okay. Do we need to add that on here?
17
18 Helen S.: We're waiting for the, uh, CWPI, which isn't out yet. As soon as we get more
19 information, we'll, we'll get that out.
20
21 Clare B.: Okay. All right, so but we could pending maybe, put that, uh...
22
23 Helen S.: Yep. Sure.
24
25 Clare B.: ...put that the pre-'92s will...
26
27 John F.: John, were you a Braves fan when they mo-, when they were in Milwaukee?
28
29 John G.: I was, uh, I was 6 when they moved to Atlanta, so I wasn't much of anything.
30
31 Clare B.: Okay. I just don't want them to be sitting out there. That represents a very elderly
32 population. [Helen 9:57], do we have a motion? Okay, yes. And the, uh, and a
33 second? All those in favor...
34
35 Lisa H.: Second.
36
37 Charles H.: Second.
38
39 Clare B.: All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
40
41 Charles H.: Aye.
42
43 Bill M.: Aye.
44
45 Lisa M.: Aye.
46

1 Clare B.: Okay. Opposed? Abstentions? All right. Thank you very much. Uh, the Approval
2 of the Board Meeting Schedule. Um, you have those attached with you. Uh, trying
3 to think. I don't think there's any surprises in there. Remember, we always, uh,
4 reserve the right to add any on, uh, or just make any adjustments in those with a
5 few weeks' notice. I think we usually try to give people some notice on any
6 changes. The board would entertain a motion to approve the meeting schedule.
7
8 Lisa M.: Motion to approve.
9
10 Clare B.: Okay. Moved.
11
12 Bill M.: Second.
13
14 Clare B.: Second. Moved and seconded. Discussion?
15
16 Lisa M.: Question.
17
18 Clare B.: Yes, go ahead Lisa.
19
20 Lisa M.: I, I saw that you are, uh, recommending virtual. I was wondering if there was a
21 possibility that we could do those in person or perhaps with a hybrid for those
22 who aren't comfortable going in person.
23
24 Clare B.: I think we could look at, uh, like a hybrid but at the present time I think we're
25 going to go with virtual but as we move into the coming year because the
26 schedule, remember, will take us into the coming year, not this year, um, yeah. I, I
27 mean it's, it's certainly worthy of a discussion, Lisa.
28
29 Lisa M.: Thank you.
30
31 Clare B.: All right, so any other questions? All right. All those in favor signify by saying
32 aye.
33
34 Lisa M.: Aye.
35
36 Lisa H.: Aye.
37
38 Charles H.: Aye.
39
40 Greg M.: Aye.
41
42 Clare B.: Uh, opposed? Abstentions? All right. Thank you. All right. Approval of the
43 Administrator's Actions Regarding the Granting of Service Retirements
44 September/October, uh, Survivor Benefits, September/October, and the Medical
45 Review Committee, uh, on Disability, uh, and, and is presented to Medical

1 Review Committee September and October 2021. We'll take them all as a group.
2 Uh, the Chair will entertain a motion to accept.
3
4 Bill M.: So moved.
5
6 Clare B.: Uh, second?
7
8 Charles H.: Second.
9
10 Clare B.: All those in favor signify by saying aye.
11
12 Greg M.: Aye.
13
14 Lisa M.: Aye.
15
16 Bill M.: Aye.
17
18 John F.: Aye.
19
20 Charles H.: Aye.
21
22 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? All right. Thank you. Um, the [inaudible 11:57] for board
23 information are there. Uh, I, prior to moving to the, uh, the public comments, um,
24 I need to get, at least give a, a piece of information here. The board was in an
25 executive session because we are, uh, still facing, uh, litigation as regards to, um
26 Anthem United Healthcare, the contracting board, um, and the board members
27 themselves will not be making any public comments on that. This litigation will
28 go on. We've been advised by our attorney but how it affects our public our – the
29 public out there right now in general is that any – you've certainly – we, we
30 encourage people to, you know, have public comment but if your comments are,
31 um, tip on any of those issues, you know, the Anthem United Healthcare litigation
32 and/or the contracting board, then we will be muting your comments because
33 we're not at the advice of our attorney not allowed to enter into the record, uh,
34 public comment regarding this matter of litigation. Just to let you know, uh, I'm,
35 I'm sure we'll hear some good comments, um, but if your comments go in that
36 direction and on that issue then I will – we will be muting those, okay? All set?
37 Javiel, are you, are you with me here? I need Javiel to make sure he knows where
38 we are.
39
40 Keith: Uh, Clare. This is Keith.
41
42 Clare B.: Keith.
43
44 Keith: I'll be doing the public comment for this session.
45

1 Clare B.: Oh, Keith. I'm sorry. Okay, so all right, when we do that, okay, if there's
2 something on there I will just raise my hand. Do you want to do that?
3

4 Keith: That works for me.
5

6 Clare B.: Okay and then you will mute that if we need to.
7

8 Keith: Yes ma'am.
9

10 Clare B.: I, I hope we'll catch it in time but okay then. The board is ready to move on to
11 public comments. Are we ready?
12

13 Keith: For those, um, members of the public that are attending virtually, please use the
14 'raise hand' and you'll be called upon one at a time. Uh, currently, we have two
15 phone-in numbers, so we can start with those while the virtual members are
16 raising their hands. Um, if you have a public comment, go ahead and – go ahead
17 and unmute yourself, uh, phone number ending in 3286. Okay, and then if you
18 have a public comment phone number ending in 2978, go ahead and unmute
19 yourself. You can talk. Okay, there doesn't seem to be a public comment from
20 them. Rita, you can go ahead and unmute yourself.
21

22 Rita: Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to speak. Three quick comments.
23 Thank you ever so much for the executive session screen, um, which was much
24 appreciated, so that when people are logging in a little after the start of the
25 meeting they don't think the meeting has ended. That was wonderful. Um, two,
26 uh, I attended the, uh, meeting in Trumbull for the insurance and I was a little
27 dismayed that the grab bag that was given, the gift bag that was given contained
28 only information for the Advantage plan. There was no information for the
29 Supplement plan and you had to know to ask at one of the tables to get that
30 information. I think since the session was supposed to have been to discuss all of
31 the plans – plan options, the information for both plans should have been
32 available to all of the participants at the meeting and in talking to people who
33 attended other meetings, I think that was pretty much the same around the State.
34 Thirdly, um, the mailing that went out from TRB for the insurance, many people
35 still have not received that. I have not received it and I'm still getting calls from
36 people down here who have not received it, so I guess there's a snafu at the post
37 office but just so you know that there are quite a few people who haven't received
38 it.
39

40 I was at the CEA, uh, R meeting in Fairfield last week and there were people there
41 who had not received it. We were able to pick it up at that meeting but for some
42 reason, there are people who have not received that mailing yet and I know it was
43 sent out a long time ago because I know people who did get it but there are a lot
44 of people who haven't gotten it.
45

46 Clare B.: Thank you, Rita.

1
2 Keith: And then, um, go ahead Bill Meyers.
3
4 Bill M.: Thank you. I want to thank the board, uh, for their hard work, Helen and the
5 Agency. I too was able to attend a United Healthcare, uh, meeting and was very
6 impressed, uh, by the presentation. I want to welcome Naomi to the, uh, Agency.
7 I hope you enjoy your tenure there and I want to congratulate Charlene Hill. I
8 have gotten to work with Charlene for over 10 years and I know how valuable she
9 is and I'm really pleased we're able to offer this, um, im-, improved, uh, you
10 know, appointment. I'm very happy for her and the Agency. Thank you.
11
12 Clare B.: Thank you, Bill.
13
14 Keith: Um, that's all the public comment requests I see right now, Clare.
15
16 Clare B.: Wow. That's surprising. I'm sorry. Okay. Uh, all right. Are there any other, you
17 know, issues? I don't think there's anything else here before the board. I'd like to,
18 uh, join Bill in welcoming Naomi and also congratulating Charlene Hill; both
19 two, uh, we're thrilled for Naomi and certainly thrilled for Charlene as well. Um,
20 seeing no other, uh, items before us, I'd like to, uh, entertain a motion to adjourn.
21
22 Lisa M.: Motion to adjourn.
23
24 Clare B.: Okay.
25
26 Keith N.: Second.
27
28 Clare B.: Moved and seconded. All right. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
29
30 Greg M.: Aye.
31
32 Lisa M.: Aye.
33
34 Bill M.: Aye.
35
36 Charles H.: Aye.
37
38 Joslyn D.: Aye.
39
40 Keith N.: Aye.
41
42 John F.: Aye.
43
44 Clare B.: Um, [inaudible 18:48] yeah. All of you, enjoy, uh, enjoy y'all's holidays. If we
45 need to have any other meeting, of course, we will and we will be in touch but we
46 don't – if we don't have that, then we would expect that we would see all of you,

1 uh, probably in, uh, some technology form or not by I think it's Fe-, a February
2 meeting, so, uh, enjoy the holidays. I thank all of you for your hard work. Uh, it's
3 been a – it's been a challenging year for everybody and, uh, I thank every one of
4 you, okay? And, and John Flores and John Garrett, don't forget. Be in touch soon
5 because we need to talk to the Treasurer. All right. Anything else? All right, all
6 those in favor signify by saying aye. We're all done. Thank you all very much.
7

8 Helen S.: Thanks, guys.

9
10 Joslyn D.: Thank you.

11
12 Lisa M.: Thank you.

13
14 Bill M.: Okay. Thank you all.

15
16
17 /axb