1 CONNECTICUT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD 2 TRB BOARD MEETING 3 **JUNE 22, 2022** 4 5 6 Clare B.: Okay, we're gonna call the, uh, Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022 board meeting to 7 order. Um, the first item on the agenda is the approval of the April 13th minutes. 8 Uh, you have them before you, I believe. That was the regular board meeting in 9 April. 10 11 Clare B.: All right. The Chair would entertain a motion. 12 13 Male: Move to accept. 14 15 Clare B.: Move to accept. Second? 16 17 Female: Second. 18 19 Male: Second. 20 21 Male: Second. 22 23 Clare B.: Second. Discussion? All right. All those in favor, signify by saying aye. 24 25 Male: Aye. 26 27 Male: Aye. 28 29 Female: Aye. 30 31 Male: Aye. 32 33 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you. Uh, the second, uh, minutes, the second item 34 is the approval of the April 28th meeting. That was a special meeting that we had, 35 uh, to go over language that Bruce had been working on with the third party group that was attempting to, uh, become members of the system, and so, uh, the board 36 had executive session, um, very robust discussion, and then the board had a vote, 37 38 uh, with one, um, clarification on the vote, and that was, uh, why that number [of 39 1:18] 400 was in there, what this de minimis kinda mean, and a reference to the 40 IRS, which I think needed to be in there, so everyone voted in favor of that and 41 then the board voted on the motion, so. All right. So, we need an approval of the 42 April 28th, um, board m-, meeting minutes. 43 44 Male: [Inaudible 1:35]. 45 46 Clare B.: Moved. Second?

48 Male: Second. 49 50 Clare B.: Discussion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye. 51 52 Male: Aye. 53 54 Male: Aye. 55 66 Male: Aye. 57 67 68 Clare B.: Two people 68 69 Male: Inaudible 1:48]. 69 70 Male: Inaudible 1:52]. 71 72 Clare B.:who aren't here, right? Thank you. Do you have that, Charlene? All right 69 70 Male: Inaudible 1:52]. 71 72 Clare B.:very good. Okay. Item number 3, the approval of the June 30th [credited 1:56] interest that we post [at 1:57] the members' accounts, and this is gonna be done by John G:: Thank you 77 78 Clare B.: [Inaudible 2:05]. 79 80 John G:Madam Chair. Um, uh, c-, is there a possibility to share screen? I can bring up the, uh 81 82 83 Clare B.: Sure.
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85 Clare B.: I don't know how to do it, but someone there does.
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87 Female: Naomi, can you, can you give John access to share his screen
or remaic. Indum, can you, can you give jum access to share ms screen
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88 89 Female: He has permission to. 90
88 89 Female: He has permission to.

93 Female: He just has to press the green share screen button. 94 95 Female: Thank you. 96 97 It's still, It's still sayin' that host disabled participants' screen sharing, but let me John G.: 98 try again now. Nope. 99 100 Female: Uh, he is promoted. Okay. Hold on. I have to promote you to cohost to give you that permission. 101 102 103 Female: There we go. 104 105 Male: Two... 106 Female: 107 Thanks, Naomi! 108 109 Male: ...two promotions in the same meeting. This is... 110 111 Clare B.: Yeah, unprecedented. 112 113 Male: ...[inaudible 2:59]. 114 115 Female: All right... 116 Yeah, and there's... 117 Male: 118 119 Female: ...[inaudible 3:10]. 120 121 Male: ...no dollars associated with those promotions. Sorry. 122 123 Female: Yeah. 124 125 Clare B.: [Yeah 3:14]. 126 127 John G.: Okay, I think that works. 128 129 Female: Thanks, Naomi. 130 131 Female: You're welcome. 132 133 John G.: Okay. Let me get to the right – so, um, uh, before you – and hopefully, can 134 everybody see the screen share? 135 Female: 136 Yeah. 137

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Female:

Yep.

139 140 Clare B.: Yep. 141 142 John G.: So, this is the letter we do every, uh, for the June board meetings for the board to, 143 uh, review and accept, um, the calculation of the interest rate con-, uh, on 144 contributions to the plan. A couple changes that've occurred a few years ago is 145 that mandatory member contributions are no longer used at 10-year smoothed rate 146 of return that the plan actually experiences. Instead, they've been set fixed at 4% 147 each year, so this calculation doesn't really provide that, uh, information. Uh, 148 what it does do is kinda determine an estimated market value for the year end 149 June 30, so this case, this is based on the expected rate of return for June 30, 150 2022. Um, it's approximated and is trued up in the next year's calculation, but, 151 um, it's based on the cash flows and the expected, uh, yields on the assets, uh, for 152 May and June. Uh, we have the trued-up information, uh, from the treasurer's office, um, through April, and then we get an estimate of what things are expected 153 154 to look like for May and June, and then we perform this calculation. 155 156 And so, this market-based return is the basis for crediting interest on the voluntary 157 contribution counts. And, as you can see, at the bottom of this letter is that the rate 158 of return for 2022 is estimated to be just over one-half of 1%, so 0.51, much 159 different than last year, but, but that's the nature of the, the, uh, investment world. 160 Um, the calculation is on the following page, where we show the market value at 161 the beginning of the year, the estimated cash flow, the expected, uh, investment income for the year, and then the ending market value, and from that we 162 determine what the rate of return is to achieve that, and that was that 0.51. 163 164 Compared to last year, 21.06, um, was a, was a much tougher year anticipated for fiscal year 2022. So, with that, that's the calculation for the rate of return to be 165 credited to the voluntary accounts. 166 167 168 Are there any questions? All right. The Chair would entertain a motion to accept Clare B.: 169 the credited interest rate for the accounts as presented by CavMac. 170 171 Male: Move to approve. 172 173 Clare B.: Move to approve. Second? 174 175 Male: Second. 176 All right. Discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. 177 Clare B.: 178 179 Male: Aye. 180 181 Male: Aye. 182 183 Female: Aye.

185 Male: Aye.

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187 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you very much. Okay. Next item on the agenda is 188 the, um, approval of the revised GASB 67 and then GASB 68 reports as of June 189 30th. Again, this will be CayMac as well. GASB, remembered, is the Government 190 Accounting Standards Board. Uh, its counterpart, FASB, would be used for 191 private pension plans and corporate pension plans, public pension plans use 192 GASB, um, so that's kind of the, you know, the, the umbrella under which we 193

operate. So John, you're on.

194 195 John G.:

Uh, thanks, Madam Chair. And, and again, the-, these reports were first done earlier this year and presented to the board, I believe March, um, and then, uh, we have a separate task that were, were paid outside the contracts for entities like, uh, UConn, UConn Health, and, uh, other government, uh, related component units of the state, which have representation in both teachers' and state employees' retirement system, and we're asked to provide them allocations as if they were a single employer plan with this benefit, um, and in doing that, we noted that the way we had done GASB 67 and 68, although it matched perfectly with the, um, annual consolidated financial reporting of the state, um, it caused problems, and what was associated with that was in the state's reporting of the employer contribution for fiscal year end '21, they carried the receivable, the \$904,000,000 contribution that was made last, uh, late September, early – uh, I think it posted in, uh, maybe October 1st to the system. Uh, they, they incorporated that in the employer contribution, and so when we do that, part of this allocation is really determining w-, you know, what the, each employer's or each entity's, uh, proportionate share of the liabilities are based on how much their contributions were as a percent of the total contribution, so when we add that \$904,000,000, it caused these allocations to go way down, um, because the 904,000,000 is in the denominator, but the numerator didn't change at all. So that plus pension expense looked, uh, pretty, pretty wacky too, so, uh, we realized that really treatin', uh, treatin' the, that additional contribution as the, the, uh, the financial reporting for the state did caused this issue, so to be more in line with that treatment of a receivable, [um 8:42] we redid GASB 67 and 68 to do that.

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So when we treat that \$904,000,000 as a receivable, we don't credit it with an expected rate of return because it's, it's receivable as of the last day of the month. It's not really in the assets expected to earn anything. So that's really basically, uh, -so, so by doing that, we expect no investment r-, uh, return on the \$904,000,000, so it does change the investment gain/loss that we calculated in GASB, so it was both the treatment of the additional contribution as receivable at 930 and then due to that, the change to the investment, uh, rate of return expectation. And, uh, we mentioned really in the first paragraph, you know, purpose of the revision in 67, and we can see that, um, in the, uh, the asset number, the total assets didn't really change. It's just that now we don't expect that the employer contribution included that 904,000,000. We called it as an other addition. And, um, so with that, the, the net pension liability, um, changes very

minor amounts. Um, uh, there is really very little change in the numbers except now that we do these allocations, we're dividing the, uh, actual component units, the employer contribution that they report compared to the actual employer contribution not including the \$904,000,000, so we get a better allocation, more consistent with how we've done that in the past.

Um, so that really is the basis for why we wanted to revise that. Um, you'll see it, uh, here on the page I'm pullin' up here. I'm sorry. It looks a little small, doesn't it? Um, but you can see that the 904,000,000 is here in other under column for 2021. We now pull this out a the employer contribution for the year, and pull it into other as an addition, and that really changed then the treatment for all the allocations for those entities like UConn, UConn Health, Connecticut schools, no, Connecticut state college, state univers- [inaudible 10:52] Connecticut Colleges and State Universities I think is the entity. It's all the, the, uh, the local colleges in Connecticut that, uh, want these allocations as well. I think they have the same auditor that has the same requirement, so we, we rarely do this in any other states, but certainly it's not a big issue to do and, and again, uh, this is paid for by them, not, not passed through the contract with TRB. So, uh, the resulting changes in GASB 67 of course then flow over to GASB s-, well, you wanna take this one at a time, Madam Chair?

Clare B.: Sure, go right ahead, John.

John G.:

All right. Well, if — without questions on 67, we'll move over to 68, and really the same i-, issues here because we're determining pension expense, that other amount really flows through pension expense and drops the pension expense for all the, for the state, but also all these component units as well, so we see the, the, uh, the collective pension expense is down to, um, instead of up around 900 [or 11:51] 1.8 billion, it's down to under \$1,000,000,000, so that, that was a much bigger, uh, visible impact on GASB 68 in the calculation [of 12:01] the pension expense, but really, it's all driven by that same change, which again, for consistency purposes, um, to get the allocations correct for the component units and more stable and more consistent, uh, and also because we are truly, um, you know, not reflecting that \$904,000,000 in the valuation, uh, treating it as a other addition, uh, we felt worked out in this, the [outer 12:26] public accounts, uh, was, was in agreement with, uh, this, the revisions that we made. So, uh, if there's no questions, that's, that's really the purpose of this revision, and, um, and it was a, really a pretty simple exercise.

270 Clare B.: Are there any questions for John on 67? 68? 271

272 Lisa H: Quick question. 273

274 Clare B.: Go ahead. 275

276 Lisa H: John, so would you – if the public was watching this, would y-, would it be fair to 277 say this was just an accounting change and there's no impact on to the TRB 278 members or the TRB itself? 279 280 John G.: That's a great point. Yes, it's absolutely only an accounting change, and, and you 281 know, uh, I'm finding more and more, [inaudible 13:08], the older I get and the 282 more I've been doing this, there's a huge difference between what actuaries do, 283 uh, and what they consider important, and what, uh, the, the accountants do, so I 284 mean, if we miss a number by 10 bucks, we're, we're doin' high fives and dancin' 285 all around, but accountants are gonna ask where the hell is the \$10, so, so, um, 286 yeah, it absolutely has no impact on the actual valuations of the system, the 287 financial health of the system. Um, this is truly only, uh, changes due to, um, you 288 know, more consistent accounting disclosures. 289 290 Lisa H: Thank you. 291 292 Clare B.: Uh, other questions for John? All right. Chair would entertain a motion to accept 293 67, 68, GASB reports. 294 295 Male: So moved. 296 297 Clare B.: And we ne-, we need a second. 298 299 Male: Second. 300 301 Clare B.: All right, moved and second. Discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying 302 aye. 303 304 Male: Aye. 305 306 Male: Aye. 307 308 Male: Aye. 309 310 Female: Aye. 311 312 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? All right, Okay, uh, John, is that it for you? 313 314 John G.: Yes, ma'am. 315 316 Female: [Inaudible 14:12]. 317 318 John G.: Yes, ma'am. 319 320 Clare B.: All right. Thank you very much. Thank you. Um, okay. The agency report. Helen, 321 you're up.

323 Helen S.:

Oh, okay. Let's see where we're gonna start. Um, staffing update. Uh, I just got off the phone a few minutes ago with, uh, HR and a candidate we have for a new fiscal manager. Uh, we had to do two rounds of interviews, but we're very pleased, uh, with our selection, so they're probably gonna be starting mid-July, so that'll really provide some relief for Charlene and the, the staff and myself, so we're very happy about that. A health insurance update. Um, things are going very, very well. Uh, we have minimal, uh, issues, if any. I mean, they're in the single digits that we have. I can tell you that we had 291 emails in the health box the past month. Um, 38 of them were, um, issues for the SAMs to review, our in, our in-house folks. I do know that, um DeDe is gonna do a little presentation from Anthem as soon as I'm through, uh, about the prior authorizations. Uh, I am aware that there's, um, some publications that get printed. I really do wanna emphasize that people should be checking the TRB website for the most, um, accurate information. I know that, uh, there are some questions about, um, Medicare, the EOBs that go out. Um, those are, again, approved by CMS.

Uh, there are, uh, really no enrollment issues. There is nothing outstanding. We have our one-offs where people lose their part B, um, and they need to get back on the plan. I do know that, um, Amanda brought to my attention some a the districts, uh, started to reenroll some of their members, so, uh, she worked through that. Uh, I'm tryin' ta think of what else, uh, is out there. Uh, I, I can tell va that we have, uh, 253 new enrollments, 250, 234 of them in the Medicare Advantage, which brings our enrollment up to 27,187. Nineteen of them enrolled into the med sup. We do have about 40 people we're missing Medicare information on. I know there was a, there were, that there were a couple questions about the hearing network, but I do know that we went over that, um at the open enrollment meetings. Uh, Amanda brought to my attention there were a couple a questions about prescription drug costs, and as we identified that previously, uh, those are due to manufacturer supply chain issues and things like that. Uh, if -I, I do wanna just really point out that if someone contacts uh, United Healthcare and there's a question and they're not happy, um, we have been directing people to contact TRB so we can take a look at it, and we have dedicated reps, uh, that handle that for us here in house.

Uh, I know that, um, I, I did hear there were some questions about providers accepting United. Um, if, uh, a member happens to call in that they're, or calls United Healthcare, and I know DeDe can talk about this too, um, and there's a question about the benefit plan, United reaches out. I do wanna emphasize that every call is logged here at TRB. Every call is logged at United Healthcare. So if a member says they have a problem with a customer service person at United Healthcare, we pull that call and we listen to that call, and it is reviewed, um, to make sure that the correct information, uh, was being given out, so honestly, the issues are, are so, are minor. I think Amanda was on the phone all day yesterday and we had 3 calls. So all in all, everything's going really, really well. So we're very pleased, and, um, with that, I'll turn that over to DeDe, 'cause I know that,

um, the prior authorizations always seem to be a hot topic, but, um, I will let DeDe take that away.

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371 DeDe R.: Thank you, Helen. Um, this is DeDe Raybuck with United Healthcare. Just wanna 372 give you guys a quick update on prior authorizations. These are year-to-date, so 373 beginning January 1 through mid-June this data was pulled. Um, we have had a 374 total of 3888 prior authorizations that have come through. Um, 98% of those were 375 approved. That's a total of 3798. Ninety of them were denied. Um, the top reason 376 for denial is that the service does not meet Medicare criteria, so remember, as a 377 Medicare Advantage plan, we are required to cover everything that Medicare would cover, and so we are following Medicare clinical guidelines, so that's 378 really what that means is not meeting Medicare criteria. Um, and then the other 379 380 one is just lack of medical necessity. Many times, we might get a prior 381 authorization, um, and then we might need additional information within a certain 382 amount of time. The provider does not submit it to us within that timeframe, so 383 that would cause the prior auth to deny. Um, the average turnaround time for the 384 prior authorizations is between 2 and 3 days, and then on the expedited prior 385 authorizations, tho-, the turnaround time is 1 business day, and 100% of the 386 expedited prior authorizations are turned around within 1 business day. So I will

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Clare B.: Questions from the Board? Okay, DeDe?

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Female: Thanks, DeDe. [Inaudible 20:28] Clare. Oh, I'm sorry. Did someone have a

pause and see if anybody has any questions on, on that information.

question?

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394 Clare B.: No, no.

Helen S.:

Helen S.:

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401 402 Um, I did wanna follow up. We had 2 members who cited they had, uh, a prescription drug issue at our last meeting, and just to let you know, those were, um, easily rectified. Uh, we, I know the United team, uh, reached out several times to, to each of them. Again, it was one person had not reached their deductible, and one was involving a part B drug, um, so those were quickly those were quickly rectified as well. So, um, I just wanted ta address that, but that's it. Uh, I can move on – if there's no questions, I'll move on to the legislative, uh, update for everybody.

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Clare B.: Questions for Helen? Okay. Legislative?

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Lost an earbud. Uh, the R, the TR, uh, we submitted a package, and it did go through. Uh, we had been trying since 2019, uh, and then COVID hit, so we were able to get the full package through this year with all the changes. Um, a summary of that will be posted on our website as we, as we always do. Um, as you – I don't know if everyone's aware, but, um, this was not a TRB package because we can't do things like this, but, um, legislation did approve to update the, uh, subsidy from 120 to 220, and then from 220 to 440 for those non-Medicare-eligible

people. I do wanna thank Amanda and our IT team because we have been reaching out to, um, all of the districts to do an audit and get some updated information, uh, and we've been working to train the district, so that's been going very well. Um, I believe another piece of legislation that was passed was the 50% tax break. I believe that, uh, that was from a few years ago, the 25 and 50%, and they did get that 50% through, um, legislation this year. Other than that, I, I think we're, uh, in good shape.

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422 Clare B.: [And 22:31] just for information for board members, the, uh, the increased 423 subsidy, uh, that subsidy was put into the law, um, and has been in effect, and 424 Bill, correct me if I'm wrong here, but, uh, probably since the '90s...

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426 Male: I think it was '96.

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428 Clare B.: '96.

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430 Male: ...was '96.

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432 Clare B.: ['96 22:48].

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434 Male: '96.

Clare B.:

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436 Female: [Inaudible 22:49].

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And, and that subsidy is for people who, um, are really staying with their board, and what happens is when they leave, you know, employment and they go into benefit status, they're always shocked, uh, by what healthcare costs, but the reason is that while they were employed, probably 80 to 90% of the healthcare premiums and everything were all paid by the board, so then they get out into retirement and they're, they're literally in sticker shock, and they wanna know what it is that, that, uh, we can do to help them. What we did in 1996 was to give them \$110 for each member, so if it's, if the spouse is, a-, and their spouse, so \$110 and \$110. It remained there for all of these years. So we are at, uh, 26 years, and the cost of the healthcare premiums and the cost that has been paid in those locals, it's gone up, uh, just exponentially. It's just unbelievable. And all of these people have still been asked, for no other reason that except that they don't, they have to stay with their local. They don't qualify for Social Security, and they're with their local plan. And so they still get \$110 a month, which is such a small amount of what their, the cost of their healthcare is, so, uh, the fact that it was doubled is, um, you know, due to a lot of work, uh, by retired teachers groups, active teachers groups, you know, board members that are teacher members. It was not in the board package, but has been, uh, requested many times over the years, but it, uh, never passed before, so, uh, so kudos to all the people who worked on that, 'cause, uh, does, it does mean something. It really does mean something to people who are, uh, who out there and, and struggling to make those 459 healthcare costs and make that premium cost, so. Thanks, Helen. Thanks for 460 updatin' us on that. Uh, any questions for Helen on anything?

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462 Female: [Inaudible 24:55].

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464 Clare B.: All right, um.

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466 Female: [Inaudible 24:56].

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468 Helen S.: Clare, before we move on, I see something in the chat, a comment about a 469 medication issue being denied for the Medicare Advantage plan. Again, um, we would need the person's name, number, a-, and, and situation. Please contact the 470 471 agency. Um, the prescription plans are the same on the Medicare Advantage and

Medicare sup. I just saw this in the chat, so before we, uh, go any further...

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474 Clare B.: Okay.

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476 ... again, we would need the member to contact us directly with the issue. So, a-, Helen S.:

thank you.

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479 Clare B.: Okay, Thanks, Helen. Thank you.

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Clare B.: Okay. Uh, that's [our next 25:32] item. Okay. The approval of policy for

> nongovernmental employee participation in the teacher retirement system. Uh, at our special meeting, remember, we had a request, uh, to do this, and Bruce and Helen had, had actually had the same request for a number of [inaudible 25:49]. It's not the first year, um, and the group that we were, that they were working with, um, was extremely, I think, difficult, uh, for them to work with. Um, the board did craft what we thought was very, uh, tight language, and language that was the maximum that we could probably ever, ever, uh, tolerate in terms of people coming into the system, um, that were not coming from a governmental agency. We operate, um, and are, qualify as a plan under the IRS because we are a

> governmental agency, and that's who we, that's who, that's who the teachers are that are in our system, um, but there is a possibility that we have other people that are here, there, and everywhere, who have gotten in in special acts, and then

there's a, um, there's a rule about it that is called de minimis, and you can never allow any more people than that to ever come into the system, so very abruptly, we just have to say to them, "No, I'm sorry, you can't come in," the-, you know,

it's the m-, it's September or you, you applied in April, you just joined the workforce, "I'm sorry, you – your're no-, you're not qualified for that at all, and

you're not gonna be able to come in."

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Um, I don't – one thing that, that the board was not as aware of, um, and Bruce crafted this policy for us – this is at the advice of our attorney – are the ERISA concerns, as you get closer and closer to those, uh, by, uh, getting close to this de minimis, um, firewall here, where you're, you're right there. You're right at it.

Um, these are some of the things that would, uh, impact us, and every one of those would be at massive expense to probably our teachers, absolutely to the state, uh, probably things that would cause us a number of legal issues going forward, um, you know, fighting with the IRS and any number of people on these issues, uh, and I asked them to put it in there because those are just, uh, just a brief summary of what some of those issues are, and I wanted them right there in the minutes for us, you know, on this agenda, so that people could just get a smattering of really what we were talking about there. So Bruce, I'll turn it over to you to give us a, you know, a little more, and, and hopefully I didn't mess anything up there, but um, we're actually gonna – why don't we – I, I think I would accept a motion to approve the policy on nongovernmental employee participation in the teacher retirement system. We have a motion?

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518 Male: Move to approve.

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Second? Yes. Clare B.:

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522 Male: Second

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524 Clare B.: We have a...

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Second. Male:

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528 Clare: ...second? Oh, good. We have a second, right? Okay. Um, I would like, uh, yeah, 529

Bruce, if you could kind take us through before the vote, just so people have a

sense of what it is that they're voting on, okay?

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532 Male: Sounds good. I'll walk you through the policy, and there was an ame-, there was 533 attached to it a memorandum, which will summarize all the rules, and I'll leave 534 that for your reading pleasure, although I'm happy to answer any questions on that. So the purpose of the policy is to basically maintain the plan's governmental 535

plan status under the code and under ERISA. Under ERISA, that means you're exempt from ERISA. Under the code, it means you're subject to a limited number of rules under the code. In particular, under the code, if you are a governmental plan, employees can contribute to the plan on a pretax basis. If you were not a

governmental plan, they could not do that. So that's one big thing. Um, and obviously you're not subject to ERISA's funding, vesting, or any other rules. So

those are the reasons, main reasons why you wanna be a governmental plan. The policy basically says that no new nongovernmental employers will be permitted to allow their employees to participate in the system. The board must approve the participation of any new employer and its employees in the system, whether it's

governmental or nongovernmental, and the board will take all reasonable actions to remove employers from the system that are clearly nongovernmental

employers. So those are basically the 3 things that you are adopting in the policy.

Um, I am happy to discuss, answer questions. Feel free to edit as you deem

550 appropriate. 551 Uh, questions for Bruce? Yes, Lisa. 552 Clare B.: 553 554 Female: Bruce, thank you. W-, how does this, um, policy interact if the legislature by 555 special act says somebody must be in the plan? H-, how do we navigate that if, 556 should that happen? 557 558 Male: Um, at the pol-, the policy does not stop the legislature from taking an action like 559 that. What we would hope and what the, I think the thought is that we would 560 propose legislation next year to effectively put the policy into legislation, so then 561 obviously if the legislature tried to have to do it, they'd have to override their own 562 legislation. The legislature has the authority to override your policy. It's a lot harder for them to go against legislation they've adopted, so... 563 564 565 Male: ...the thought is the next step is go to legislation. 566 567 Female: Okay. Thank you. 568 569 Clare B.: Other questions? All right. The move – it has been moved and seconded. Um, all 570 those in favor, signify by saying aye. 571 572 Male: Aye. 573 574 Male: Aye. 575 576 Female: Aye. 577 578 Male: Aye. 579 580 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? All right. Bruce, thank you very much. Okay. Next item 581 on here, um, the approval of, uh, the approval of policy to require a mandatory 582 district training for transmittal process. Helen, you wanna explain that to us? 583 584 Helen S.: Yes. Thank you. Um, as you know, we deal with, um, almost a couple hundred 585 districts, and the transmittal process is one of the most important things that we do 586 here at TRB to make sure that we, we get those pension, uh, salary and 587 percentages into our system correctly. Uh, the districts seem to, uh, quite often have a lot of turnover. Uh, there seems to be a lot of confusion. We have been 588 589 running training programs for the past several years, a couple times a year, uh, but 590 we still keep running into roadblocks, and it really inhibits the staff administratively, so we'd like to move forward and adopt a policy and put it in 591 592 our administrative handbook and reach out to the districts and let them know that 593 that transmittal training is mandatory for the districts. They must attend the 594 transmittal training and learn how to submit the, uh, contributions correctly. Uh,

again, we do training twice a year. We're probably gonna start doing some

monthly workshops, but it really inhibits the TRB administrative process when

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597 those transmittals are discovered at the end of the year that they're incorrect. If 598 someone goes to retire, uh, we, we have to audit them. A lot of the districts, uh, 599 have a, a really challenging time, so the idea is to adopt this policy and we'll 600 reach out to the districts, to the superintendents, business managers, and let them know that the staff must attend the training sessions to properly submit the 601 602 contributions for their employees. 603 604 Clare B.: Okay. And you'll be flexible, right Helen? In terms of working with the districts 605 on this. 606 607 Clare B.: Districts don't like the word mandatory, I'm just saying, so... 608 609 Yeah. Helen S. 610 611 Clare B.: we'll be flexible, but it's really, um, almost required because... 612 613 Female: [Inaudible 33:37]. 614 615 Clare B.: ...otherwise, the, the numbers aren't accurate and it could hold up a retirement. It 616 could hold up any number of things. 617 618 Helen S.: Exactly 619 620 Female: Mm-hm. 621 622 Clare B.: Lisa? Question? 623 624 Male: I have a question. 625 626 Clare B.: Oh... 627 628 Male: [Inaudible 33:48]. 629 630 Clare B.: ...go ahead. 631 632 Male: Does this – what if a district doesn't do this or continues to make mistakes? Do 633 we have any enforcement or penalization on a district to encourage them to do 634 better? 635 636 Helen S.: Well, we, we try an-, we do, we try and work with our districts, Steve. We, we don't penalize them i-, if they make a mistake. Um, you know, we do – if they 637 638 don't, if they don't adhere to certain guidelines an-, and send it in on time, they, they can be penalized with a, with a cost, you know, with a percentage cost for 639 not submitting [it 34:21] on time, but the objective is not to, to penalize them; it's 640 641 to really educate them so that these mistakes don't impact the agency and their 642 employees. So again...

643 644 Male: Okay. 645 646 Helen S.: ...we, we're gonna continue our training and then we're hoping to maybe even do 647 some monthly or quarterly workshops, you know, webinar meetings, maybe the first Thursday of every month. If you have questions, please log, you know, here 648 649 we are. Please, you know, address the questions with us and we'll do it before the 650 transmittals are due. Um, we just wanna educate, uh, the district so that it makes 651 their life easier for their employees as well as TRB, because nothing's worse than 652 finding out that, when you go to retire, when you're audited, that there was a 653 mistake 10 years ago and... 654 655 Male: Mm-hm. 656 657 Helen S.: ...y-, you know, you have a, a nominal fee to, to pay, so. 658 659 Male: Thank you. 660 661 ...vast majority of districts, though, really do voluntary com-, compliance here, I Clare B.: 662 mean, but... 663 664 Helen S.: Absolutely. 665 666 Clare B.: It's not a lot of people, I think, Stephen, but, but you're right you know, we're, 667 we're not like, uh, we don't have much of an enforcement arm, but, but the, the goal is to have them all comply, and so... 668 669 670 Female: [Mm- hm 35:33]. 671 672 Clare B.: ...this – if this gives us some leverage ta have them all comply with this policy, I 673 think it would be helpful. 674 675 Helen S.: [Yea 35:40]. 676 677 Clare B.: Um, all right. The, has this been moved and seconded? 678 679 Female: First of all, thank you. Thank you for doing this. I understand the absolute need 680 and why we would want this. I am concerned about using mandatory when there 681 is no enforcement mechanism. Um, has our counsel – Bruce, have you reviewed 682 this? Is this something we have the authority to... 683 684 Female: Mm-hm. 685 686 Female: ...require as mandatory?

688 Male: I have not reviewed it, but I have been a part of the discussions concerning it. You 689 certainly have the authority to adopt it. 690 691 Female: Okay. 692 693 Clare B.: Any other questions? 694 695 Male: Yeah, I... 696 697 ...I just have a quick question. Male: 698 699 Clare B.: Yep. 700 701 Male: Yeah. Helen, how many incidents do we have where people thought, uh, the 702 money was bein' taken out, it wasn't, and there was an error made? Did we... 703 704 Male: ...have many a year? 705 706 Helen S.: Uh, we ha-, we have – there's not that many. Th-, we, we do get them now and 707 again. You know, we do have some, some districts who kinda struggle. It's a lot 708 of our charter schools, uh, that, where there seems to be a lot more turnover, so 709 we're just trying ta, to rein them in. I can have our fiscal team – they probably 710 have a better answer... 711 712 Helen S.: ...on that, because we do it at the end of the – we're doing it right now, um, and, 713 and auditing all the transmittals from September to June, and they're due July 15th, so I'll have... 714 715 716 Male: [Inaudible 37:06] 717 718 Helen S.: ...[inaudible 37:06]. 719 720 Male: Yeah. I was gonna say a lotta times, or several times, people have come and said they thought the money was gonna be taken out [and 37:12] it wasn't taken out, 721 722 and, uh, the district didn't necessarily know what the, what the policy was, you 723 know, when they're eligible to, someone who's been on leave, if their eligible to buy in or not buy in, and... 724 725 726 Female: [Mm-hm 37:23]. 727 728 Male: ...was it done or wasn't. A lot of times [the 37:25] people don't know. 729 730 Helen S.: Mm-hm. So we're gonna update that administrative manual as well. And again,

we're, we're doing a lot more training with our districts, uh, especially when it

comes to the subsidies and the contributions, and A-, Amanda's been a, a part of

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733 that as – with the subsidy we're gonna launch a training program too, so, uh, 734 we're, we're just really tryin' ta be proactive rather than reactive. 735 736 Male: [Okay 37:51]. 737 738 Clare B.: Okay. I think we need a motion to approve this. 739 740 Male: Move to approve. 741 742 Clare B.: Second? 743 744 Male: Second. 745 746 Clare B.: Okay. Moved and... 747 748 Male: Second. 749 750 Clare B.: ...seconded. Discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. 751 752 Male: Aye. 753 754 Male: Aye. 755 756 Female: Aye. 757 758 Female: Aye. 759 760 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you. Um, item number 8, approval to transfer the 761 member accounts deemed abandoned following a 25-year period of acti-, 762 inactivity, or 10 years for nonvested inactive members the pension review account pension reserve account, in accordance with section 10-183EE of the Connecticut 763 764 general statutes. [This is 38:30] something we must do every year. We do it in 765 June. Uh, Helen, any update? Anything you wanna say about that or... 766 767 Helen S.: No, it's, it's... 768 769 Helen S.: ...everything's been, everything's been mailed out to, to the members and [we're, 770 we're 38:42] followed through with that process as we do every year. 771 772 Clare B.: Okay. Um, all right. The board would entertain a motion to approve. 773 774 Male: So moved. 775 776 Male: So moved. 777

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Clare B.:

Second?

779 780 Male: Second. 781 782 Clare B.: Okay, second. Um, discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. 783 784 Male: Aye. 785 786 Male: Aye. 787 788 Female: Aye. 789 790 Female: Aye. 791 792 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Alright, Thank you. Uh, the approval of the annual 793 resolution renewal authorizing TRB administrator, assistant administrator, and 794 fiscal administrator to negotiate and/or execute all contracts, agreements, drafts, 795 [warrants 39:15] and any such other agreements necessary to operate and conduct 796 the business of the Connecticut Teacher Retirement System and for the payment 797 of any benefits permitted or required. This is annually, the board grants to Helen 798 and the administrators. We set the policy and we sit at the top of the system, but it 799 is the other people – it is Helen and her staff that administer the laws and all of the 800 policies and guidelines that we have, but annually, we must give her that 801 authority. She does not have that authority in perpetuity. Every year, this board 802 must say we grant to Helen and to the people that are notified on, are, are so 803 designated on here, to execute these contracts and agreements. Um, they actually 804 keep everything running within the retirement system [and 40:12] – but this board must delegate that authority and assign that authority to them once a year. All 805 right? So that's what this, this is about. All right? Yes, Lisa? Oh, we take a 806 807 motion. Could we take a motion to approve? 808 809 Male: Move to approve. 810 811 Male: [Second 40:30]. 812 813 Clare B.: Second? 814 815 Female: Second. 816 817 Clare B.: Okay. Lisa, discussion? 818 819 Female: Yes. Thank you, Clare. I think last year you explained, uh, to the board and the 820 public, and I just wanna confirm, this does not include approvals which were 821 required by s-, state statute. 822 823 Clare B.: Not at all. Not at all. No. 'Cause this is the day-to-day running of the system, um,

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so, other questions?

825 826 Male: Yeah. Clare, I don't, um, remember. Is there a cap to this authority? Uh, not that 827 there's any issue, but, so, is there, like, a monetary limit what Helen can do or 828 anybody that were listening, uh, without comin' back ta' the board for approval? 829 830 Clare B.: I don't, I mean, most of the things that, that come to us from the budget. Um, 831 most of the things are required by law, um, and they, and OPM has tremendous 832 oversight over any and all expenditures to see that we're constantly in 833 compliance, as does DAS, um, in terms of the oversight of anything. Um, it's – 834 Helen isn't out there as a free agent in any way. 835 836 Helen S.: No. 837 838 Male: I'm not implying that. I'm just -I s-, I've sat on a number of boards and 839 whenever there's been authority, there's usually been a, a financial... 840 841 Clare B: She can buy all the paperclips she wants. Right. 842 843 ... yeah, financial limit, uh, before, uh, so it's clear to the individuals that they Male: 844 don't have ta go back ta the board necessarily, but on the flipside, if there's an 845 amount that is in excess of that, that the board has to approve it. I'm just throwin' 846 that out there for discussion purposes. 847 848 Clare B.: Bruce, any thought on that? 849 850 Helen S.: Well, all of our... 851 852 Male: Sorry, I didn't unmute. Um, you may wa-, you, sometimes you put caps around 853 things like that. You know, Helen is the duly-appointed administrator, you know, 854 acting on behalf of the board, so, you know, in my view, if you're gonna put a 855 cap, it should be a pretty high number. 856 857 Clare B.: [Yeah 42:38]. You're talking about the nu-, the amount of money that passes 858 through us, you know, in contributions, doesn't just kinda passes through us to 859 another, you know, the comptroller's office, to the treasurer's office. Um, you know, I'm, [I'm sayin' 42:50] I think that there's probably adequate oversight 860 861 over all of that, but it could be a real high number, [John 42:55]. I'm not sure. 862 Helen, go ahead. 863 864 Helen S.: Yeah. Everything, yeah, everything is approved by OPM. all our, all of our numbers are approved, there, so there's nothing that – there's no secret. You can 865 866 look in our budget and look at our – we just sign off on, on the allocations for 867 everything that we're approved to have in our budget for, you know, person-, 868 personnel expenses, operating expenses, the health subsidy, and things like that,

so we're not makin' up any numbers. They're all allocated through..

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871 Male: not implying anyone is. I'm just...

Helen S.: Oh, no, no, no. I'm just saying it's all in the budget. You'll see it there, so we're

just signing, we're just passing through the administrative process as to what's

already been approved.

Clare B.: Any other questions? Anybody? All right. It's been moved and seconded. Uh, all

those in favor, signify by saying aye.

880 Female: Aye.

882 Female: Aye.

884 Male: Aye.

886 Male: Aye.

888 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Next item up, uh, item sorry, I'm up to, uh, 10.

Item 10...

891 Female: 10.

893 Clare B.:

committee. Remember, we've also talked about this before. The medical review committee, um, works [and 44:13] really doesn't get tremendous compensation, but the board itself does not review, um, claims for disabilities or, um, you know, survivor, a-, any of those. We actually have a, uh, a group of people. Most of them are in the Hartford area, I think, 'cause they meet and they have ta review these applications, and then they pass that back to us as a board, and at our annual meeting, we al-, we usually see them on there. We usually see this report from them, the things that they approved, the things that they denied. Um, sometimes denials just mean that they don't have accurate information [and 44:53] people have not submitted enough information from the doctors or whoever. Uh, but we've always been, uh, appreciative of the fact that they were, um, you know – if we had to pay'm probably real money for their real worth and their real time, wow, this would cost an awful lotta money for us to do. [I think 45:10] we're probly very grateful to have a team of, of experts, um, you know, who do this

review for us. Uh, so the board would entertain a motion to approve this. We do

...approval of the annual resolution, uh, and renewal of the medical review

this annually, also at the June meeting.

911 Female: Motion to approve.

913 Female: [Inaudible 45:25]

915 Male: Second.

917 Clare B.: Approved. Second? Okay. Moved and seconded. Discussion. All right. All those 918 in favor, signify by saying aye. 919 920 Male: Aye. 921 922 Male: Aye. 923 924 Female: Aye. 925 926 Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you. All right. Uh, approval of the July 2022 Clare B.: 927 COLA increase for the pre-September '92 members. Uh, we didn't have that, if 928 you remember, um, previously, but it had – they, they are, by law, uh, their 929 COLA, if you, they retired prior to September 1992, was a minimum of 3%. Even 930 if other people didn't get any, they got 3%, and a maximum of 5%, and so we did have ta wait for the National Consumer Price Index, that number to be revealed. 931 932 Now that we know that, uh, that number is gonna be 5% for them. So the Chair 933 would entertain a motion to accept. 934 935 Male: So moved. 936 937 Male: [Inaudible 46:23]. 938 939 Male: Second. 940 941 Female: [Inaudible 46:24]. 942 943 Clare B.: Uh, discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. 944 945 Male: Aye. 946 947 Female: Aye. 948 949 Male: Aye. 950 951 Female: Aye. 952 953 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? And then, uh, next up, approval of the administrator's 954 actions regarding the granting the service retirements for April and May 2022, 955 survivor benefits for April and May 2022, and the reports and recommendations 956 of the medical review committee for disability payments as presented [ta them 957 46:56] at the April and May 2022 meetings. So we'll take all 3 together. Chair 958 would entertain a motion to approve. 959 960 Male: So moved. 961

962

Clare B.:

Second?

963 964 Male: Second. 965 966 Clare B.: Discussion? All those in favor, signify by sayin' aye. 967 968 Male: Aye. 969 970 Male: Aye. 971 972 Male: Aye. 973 974 Female: Aye. 975 976 Clare B.: Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you. [And then the matters 47:15] for board 977 information are attached. Uh, our next meeting is on September 14th, and, uh, 978 any, anything before the board for the board? All right, then we'll move on to, uh, 979 public comments. 980 981 Clare, could I just... Helen S.: 982 983 Clare B.: Yes, go ahead, Helen. 984 985 Helen S.: Um, so I just want, I just got some numbers on our retirees for this year. We've got, um, 991. Uh, last year, we had a total of 963 for July. Uh, we're estimating 986 987 that we're gonna end up with, um, 1050, uh, retirees for July. I know that question 988 comes up a lot, um, and we, we, we, we'll probly get some in the beginning of 989 July as well, so we're a little, uh, we're a little bit over last year. Last year, we had 990 a, kind of a drop, and I think we had a drop because of COVID, um, with, with 991 our retirees, and then I just wanted ta, before we move on, um, I just got the, um, 992 numbers. Um, we have a total of 31,907 people on our retiree health plan 993 nationally. Um, I wanna just thank [Terry 48:21] and, and United for all their hard 994 work, uh, because, you know, um, we're running all of our numbers and to have, 995 you know, 38 or 39, um, questions or issues in the past month that our, that our 996 dedicated reps are working on, I think the stats are amazing when you consider 997 we have 32,000 people on this plan and we're operating with less than 5 to 10 998 phone calls a day and our escalation team is just doing an excellent job. So I just 999 wanted to really thank DeDe and thank [Terry 48:51] and, and the team that's on 1000 site. 1001 1002 Clare B.: Thank you. Thank you, Helen. Thank you. 1003 1004 Helen S.: You bet. 1005 1006 Clare B.: [Yeah 48:57] DeDe. Thank you all. Uh, okay. We're gonna move on to public

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comments.

1009 Female: I just, Clare? 1010 1011 Clare B.: Go ahead. 1012 1013 Female: Sorry. 1014 1015 Female: Sure. 1016 1017 Clare B.: Y-, yes. Lisa... 1018 1019 Female: Yeah, thanks. I just wanted to say, I don't think I, I don't think I was even in on 1020 this as a panelist for the last probably most of the meeting. I don't quite know 1021 why, but I just got promoted to panelist about 5 minutes ago... 1022 1023 Female: ...and I was voting... 1024 1025 Clare B.: ...okay. 1026 1027 Female: ...so I just wanna let Charlene know that I was voting on everything... 1028 1029 Female: Sorry about that, Lisa. I, I saw your name on the list. I'm like, where's Lisa? So I 1030 just pinged everybody. 1031 1032 Female: I just wanted to let you know that. I didn't abstain... 1033 1034 Clare B.: Thank you. 1035 1036 Female: ...from anything. I voted. 1037 1038 Clare B.: Thank you. Thank you... 1039 1040 Female: Yep. 1041 1042 Clare B.: ...Lisa. Okay. Are we all set? The board? Okay, we'll move on to the, uh, to the 1043 public comments. Is somebody gonna tell us where they are? I got'm at the b-, I 1044 have chats down here, but... 1045 1046 Female: I think [inaudible 49:50]. 1047 1048 Female: All right. We have 1 person raising their hand. Uh, that is [Rita 49:55]. [Rita 1049 49:57], you have permission to unmute. 1050 1051 Female: Good afternoon. Uh, first, I'd like to thank Amanda Harley and her team for 1052 prompt responses both to my inquiries and the inquiries of people who I send her 1053 way. Um, but I'd like to call to the board's attention that there appears to be a bit 1054 of a recurring error in processing of some of the medical claims for retirees

1055 enrolled in the traditional Medicare supplement plan, and I, you know, I heard 1056 Helen's report, um, that there are very few, um, errors or very few, uh, 1057 complaints, but for those people who are having difficulty, they're real. Claims 1058 have been denied and enrollees have been told by UHC, uh, customer service reps that the denials are based upon the enrollees not having met their 2022 deductible. 1059 1060 The only deductible, however, that, uh, supplement employees have, uh, enrollees have to worry about, is the Medicare, uh, deductible of \$233. For some reason, 1061 1062 UHC customer service reps think that there is a \$2000 deductible on top of that, which is not the case. Um, and, and I got a number of calls about this over the last 1063 1064 probably 3 months, but then last week I had the problem, so I was able to see it up close and personal. My concern is that we're now 6 months in to the operation of 1065 the, uh, of the new policy with UHC, and UHC has had a whole year now to gear 1066 up for this, so that there is a problem with the customer service reps if they still 1067 don't understand how this plan works, and there are people who are actually 1068 paying these bills to the doctors because they don't know, like I do and some of 1069 1070 the other people who reach out to me and some other people around the state who 1071 work with this stuff on a daily basis, that there are ways to get around this and that the information that they're getting directly from United Healthcare is incorrect. 1072 So I just wanted the board to understand that there are some issues out there. 1073 When you're talking about 32,000 people, if you're only talking about maybe 1074 100, that's not a big deal, but it's a big deal for the 100 people that it affects. 1075 1076 Thank you. 1077 1078 Clare B.: Thank you. Uh, next? 1079 1080 Helen S.: I will not public comment, but if you could just have those individuals contact 1081 TRB so that, um, Amanda and the escalation team can take care of that, that'd be 1082 great. 1083 1084 Female: I've been sending them, um, your way, Helen, and I had conversations with, uh, both Amanda about my situation and the people from United Healthcare who are 1085 1086 working with her. My concern is that there are people who don't know how to do 1087 that, and that, you know, that's difficult. 1088 1089 Clare B.: Okay. Thank you, [Rita 53:00]. Next? [Erik 53:03], who's up? 1090 1091 Female: Next. 1092 1093 Clare B.: [Javier 53:06]? 1094 1095 Female: So next, we have [Walt 53:10]. Uh, [Walt 53:11], you have permission to unmute. 1096 1097 Okay. Thank you. Can everyone hear me? Male: 1098

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Clare B.:

Yes.

1101 Male: Okay. Thank you. Um, good afternoon. Uh, [Walt Ciplinski53:22] here, and, um, 1102 I did hear Elle-, Helen mention that there's 40 retirees who still need, uh, their 1103 medical coverage to be determined, and, um, I'm feeling that this particular 1104 group, even though 40 seems like a small number, must feel really stressed. So, um, I was kind of wondering, uh, if there's something that TRB can do to make 1105 1106 sure that they're covered in the meantime, um, 'cause I've been hearing some, uh, 1107 stories [from 53:59] some individuals, and I think the previous, uh, commenter 1108 said that, um, it doesn't matter how many, but if that one is you, uh, it's pretty 1109 stressful, and for older people or people who are in need of, uh, constant medical 1110 care, um, this is a very important thing to resolve, so 40 may be a small number, uh, but it would be good to hear what's being done on their behalf. So... 1111 1112 1113 Clare B.: Thank you. 1114 1115 Male: ...that's my comment for today, and I thank you very much for listening, and 1116 have a great summer vacation for everyone. 1117 1118 Clare B.: Thank you, [Walter 54:36]. [All right, next]. 1119 1120 Helen S.: Hi, Clare, not to comment, but let me just make this very clear. Uh, there are 35 pending enrollments for people who are enrolling into the plan who are missing 1121 their part B information, and the team is working with them. These are new 1122 1123 people who are coming onto Medicare, um, who the agency is working with because they're having problems with their part B. It is no one existing in the 1124 1125 plan. These are all – we have 234 people coming into the MAPD plan, 19 coming into the med sup, 35 pending enrollments who are missing some information that 1126 1127 the team is working with during their transition into Medicare. 1128 1129 Clare B.: Okay. Thank you. Next? Do we have another person? 1130 1131 Uh, no. There is no other people with their hands raised at the moment. Female: 1132 1133 Clare B.: All right. Well, let me wait a minute and see if we get any. Anyone else? 1134 1135 Thank you, Naomi, very much. You're doin' a great job. Helen S.: 1136 1137 Female: Thank you. 1138 1139 Clare B.: Okay. Seeing no one else, um, board would entertain a motion to adjourn. move to adjourn. 1140 Male: 1141 1142 Clare B.: Moved. Seconded? 1143 1144 Female: Second. 1145

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

1146

Clare B.:

1147 1148 Male: Aye. 1149 1150 Male: Aye. 1151 1152 Female; Aye. 1153 1154 Male: Aye. 1155 1156 Clare B.: All right. I'd like to thank all the board members, um, and wish them a, uh, happy 4th of July, happy end of the school year for those of you who are still working. 1157 I'm sure that's a very joyous moment. Um, and also a happy 4th of July for the 1158 1159 rest of you. Um, our next meeting will be on September 14th. Okay? 1160 Female.: 1161 All right. 1162 1163 Clare: Thank you. 1164 1165 Female: Thank you. Thank you... 1166 Female: 1167 Thank you. 1168 1169 Female: Thank you, everyone. 1170 Thanks everyone. 1171 Male: 1172 1173 Male: Thank you, everyone. 1174 1175 Female: Goodbye. 1176 1177 Clare B.: [Inaudible 56:37] for tonight. 1178 1179 Female: Bye. 1180 1181 Male: Bye. 1182

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/tw