

Benefits Focus Group Minutes (2/5/03)

Committee members, alternates and staff advisors present:

Benita Saldutti
John Glanden
Robert Blinch-Edwards
Stacey Monroe
Gil Fernandez
Veda Mahadi
Linsley Pietsch
KayKae Thomas
Pat Horan
Janice Cox
Casey Humpert
Dolly Gamble
Karen Lusk
Marquett Becker
Joyce Dolan

Benita Saldutti called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., February 5, 2003. Roll was called.

The minutes from the January 8, 2003 meeting were approved as written.

Benita Saldutti asked for the report on the Health Screening schedule. Robert Blinch-Edwards stated he did not have the report because he is waiting for Linda McKinney to provide him with the text that is going out to the employees. As soon as he has that text, he will then arrange a schedule.

Next item was to finalize the Group's Mission Statement: After suggestions as to the wording, it was decided to send the statement back to Ms. McKinney for her revision. Some suggested language was using "comprehensive healthcare benefit options" in place of "medical coverage" in the current draft statement:

The Benefit Focus Group is comprised of City of Sarasota employees and retirees. It was established to review medical coverage options and make recommendations regarding the City of Sarasota's healthcare plan to maintain affordable and quality coverage. The Benefit Focus Group makes their recommendations to the City Manager.

At the last meeting, the Group decided that two people would attend a healthcare seminar presented by the Central Florida Health Care Coalition in Orlando. Dolly Gamble and Linsley Pietsch will report at the March meeting.

Mr. Blinch-Edwards mentioned another conference on April 24-25, 2003, the 11th Annual Employee Health Benefits Conference. It will be held at the Hyatt in Sarasota. He has arranged for two people to attend for the price of one. Self-funded health plans

and wellness programs are two of the topics that will be covered. Linda McKinney will be sitting on one of the panels at the conference.

Ms. Saldutti said the Group could recommend that two people go, but the City Manager will have to give approval. Stacey Monroe made the motion to make the recommendation to the City Manager. Dolly Gamble seconded. Motion carried. Members who are interested in attending will submit their name to Ms. McKinney and she will handle the details. An email will be sent out to the Group to see if anyone who is not at today's meeting has an interest.

Mr. Blinch-Edwards offered a report on claim status through December 2002. Presently we are running 10% overall under the cost of last year's claims. The medical is down 17%, but the prescription utilization is up 21%. The national trend is 18% increase for 2002.

Joyce Dolan asked how the meeting minutes were being dispersed to active employees. They are published on the City website, but it is the responsibility of the members of the group to go back and advise their departments of what is going on. The suggestion was made and agreed upon by the Group to email draft minutes to all employees. They would be posted on bulletin boards for those employees that do not have access to email.

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm.

Next meeting is March 5, 2003, 1:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.

Items for next meeting:

- Mr. Blinch-Edwards to provide schedule of possible dates for health screenings for employees and their spouses
- Approve final draft of Group's Mission Statement
- Report on Health Conference

Minutes Approved: April 2, 2003

Benita Saldutti, Vice-Chairperson