

## **Benefits Focus Group Minutes (11/05/03)**

Committee members, alternates and staff advisors present:

Janice Cox  
John Glanden  
Gil Fernandez  
Casey Humpert  
Dick Minster  
Stacey Monroe  
Andy St. John  
Benita Saldutti  
Kaykae Thomas  
Susan Merritt  
Joyce Dolan  
Nancy Meskimen  
Joe Munyak  
William Tatum  
Robert Blinch-Edwards  
Linda McKinney  
Diane Vanderwest

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

Minutes from the October 1, 2003 meeting were approved; however Linda McKinney had one addition to the minutes. Client information requested from WorldDoc from the last meeting had been forwarded to her in an email that was in two parts and she had not forwarded this to Mr. Hoverter. The minutes had stated that he had not received this information, so the minutes were accurately reflected and this was an addition to them.

Kaykae Thomas **updated open enrollment.** Employees and retirees are sending in their forms and Ms. Thomas will begin to go through them this weekend. A separate letter went out to those that have PPO only, explaining the options of changing coverage. Information was presented to firefighters last week.

John Glanden asked about having a pneumonia shot along with the flu shot and its cost. Flu shot participation will be provided at the next meeting and also the cost of a pneumonia shot.

Robert Blinch-Edwards covered health screenings. A list of proposed dates was given as: January 28th, 30th, February 3rd, 5th, 10th and 12th, with locations to be determined later. Various location choices are: Woodmere in Venice, University Parkway Clinic, SMH Auditorium, Colonial Oaks, the County Administration Building, City Municipal Auditorium and Blackburn Point. The time frame would be 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The screenings should be done early due to fasting prior to the screening tests.

County employees will have the same screenings. The screenings will be for everyone: city employees, county employees, hospital employees, retirees, etc., in lieu of the Health Fair. Healthcare Sarasota is providing this for all of its members and their dependants free of charge.

Flyers will go out as a mailing or with paychecks. Instructions will be given to call Healthcare Sarasota to make an appointment. These screenings will be by appointment only, by calling the phone number provided. A staff will be paid to provide this service, so the number of people participating should be known in advance.

Ms. Saldutti clarified that this will be the City's health screening. Linda McKinney added that spouses and dependants were allowed to participate in these screenings at the many locations provided. Joe Muniak asked about the FOP lodge as another location.

The employee will be allowed time to go to their closest location.

Mr. Glanden asked why do these screenings if you have an annual physical with a doctor and tests are done through the doctor. Mr. Blinch-Edwards explained that these screenings provide another data point for those that have annual physicals. The screeners will have a benchmark copy or previous testing that can be looked at. Annual physicals are not mandatory with this plan. Ms. McKinney added that most physicians do not require an annual physical, but one every three years because it's not usually needed. You should not go three years without a data point that these screenings would provide. However, it is not meant to be in place of a physical.

Ms. McKinney said we would not be conducting a health screening at the next SMREA meeting on January 21. At the next SMREA meeting, the screening information could be provided (locations and dates).

**Other matters:**

Ms. Saldutti said that if you have any personal insurance issues with EMI, bring the issue up directly with EMI with the customer representative, Debbie Blake or with Kaykae Thomas in HR, but not in these meetings.

Ms. McKinney advised an outline of steps a person should follow when they need to call EMI, will be brought to the next meeting to review.

Mr. Blinch-Edwards said the Rx savings for the City is \$130,000 due to the new contract, discounts (22% now vs. 20% previous) and no dispensing fee.

Mr. Blinch-Edwards mentioned biotech drug usage through pre-authorization and will provide a breakdown for the City in savings. The retail is \$100. There are 100 biotech drugs on the market today with 370 to be added by 2005. There were only 10 biotech drugs available in 1980.

Stacy Monroe mentioned physicals and lab costs and how they would vary. Discussion followed on the confusion of the lab work procedure and wellness coding for lab work.

