

Benefits Focus Group Minutes (9/3/03)

Committee members, alternates and staff advisors present:

John Agen
Benita Saldutti
John Glanden
Robert Blinch-Edwards
Stacey Monroe
Veda Mahadi
KayKae Thomas
Dolly Gamble
Andy St. John
Kevin Stiff
Pat Horan
Janice Cox
Marquett Becker
Bill Tatum
Kurt Hoverter
Linda McKinney
April Bryan
Dana Park, WorldDoc

John Agen called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., September 3, 2003. Roll was called. Minutes from the June 4, 2003 meeting were approved as written.

Robert Blinch-Edwards introduced Dana Park, VP Business Development for WorldDoc. She gave a demonstration of WorldDoc, a web-based interactive program to enable consumers to make better health care choices. She said the program is designed to empower consumers so that they will be able to understand when self-care is safe and effective, when they should seek care and the appropriate level of care they should anticipate when they get there. At the end of her presentation, she provided the Group with a temporary login name and password that would allow everyone the opportunity to use and evaluate the service.

Some features of the WorldDoc program are as follows:

- A personal evaluation system to answer specific health questions with the capability of storing personal health profiles
- A medical library where the consumer can read about related conditions and treatment options
- Helpful information on how to prevent illness and complications
- Information about medications
- Ability to communicate with a doctor online
- The medical information contained in WorldDoc covers over 90% of common medical conditions

If the City should decide to purchase this program, the estimated cost would be \$1.59/month/covered plan holder or approximately \$22,000 per year. Kurt Hoverter said it is being offered as another option for the Group to consider. Mr. Agen said he thought there should be more study done to determine the percentage of members who have computer access. The expense may not be warranted if the majority cannot or will not use it. Kevin Stiff said perhaps a rebate or bonus could be offered as an incentive for people to use it. Mr. Hoverter said that if the Group decides to go with the program, access could be provided at City locations for retirees and those employees who do not have access on their regular job.

The Monthly Comparison handout was discussed. At this point, costs are still higher than last year. Mr. Agen asked if the changes in the prescription copays and the spousal surcharge would be enough to keep the City management happy. Mr. Hoverter said the changes were proposed, not to make the fund break even, but to keep employee contributions the same for another year. The City Manager has agreed to the changes, they have been built into the budget assumption for the next year and are awaiting approval by the City Commission. At this time, no other changes are anticipated for the next year.

Ms. Saldutti said it is important to make sure everyone is aware of the changes in plenty of time to prepare for the extra costs. The members of the Focus Group need to advise the people in their respective departments. Mr. Agen will advise the retirees of the proposed changes. He encouraged everyone to use and evaluate the WorldDoc program and come back with a recommendation for the Group at the next meeting.

Next meeting is October 1, 2003 in Room 100A at the Federal Building.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Items for next meeting:

- Group feedback re: WorldDoc program

Minutes Approved: _____

John Agen, Chairperson