

Benefits Focus Group Minutes

(08/03/05)

(In attendance, alphabetically listed)

Note: Names listed are BFG members; non-members may attend but are not always listed.

<u>Regular Members</u>	<u>Alternate Members</u>	<u>Staff Advisors</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
John Agen	Joyce Dolan	Robert Blinch-Edwards	Diane Vanderwest
Janice Cox	Nancy Meskimen	Kurt Hoverter	
Cindy Cumbie	William Tatum	Linda McKinney	
Dolly Gamble			
John Glanden			
Jim Godshall			
Pat Horan			
Bill Gaines		<u>Guests:</u>	
Tom Laracey		C/M M McNees	
Dick Minster		Tom Dolsak, WEBTPA	
Stacey Monroe			
KayKae Thomas			
Ed Whitehead			

Call to Order

John Agen called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., Wednesday, August 3, 2005 and asked for roll call.

Roll Call

Diane Vanderwest called the roll and recorded the meeting. It was noted that Gil Fernandez of Public Works/Utilities and Marquett Becker of Housing would no longer be BFG members.

Approval of Minutes

John Agen called for approval of the minutes from the last meeting of April 6, 2005. The final minutes were approved as presented.

2nd Annual City Health Fair – KayKae Thomas

This year's City Health Fair will take place at the Payne Park Auditorium (2100 Laurel St.) Friday, September 16, 2005, from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm. You must call 917-1290 (Wendy Prell at Healthcare Sarasota) for an appointment to receive your free screenings. Appointments are available from 7:00 am to 10:30 am. Screenings include: blood pressure, HDL, LDL, Tri-glycerides, glucose (sugar) and total cholesterol. It's free to ALL covered employees, retirees and covered dependents over the age of 18.

Health Fair Vendors will also be available to speak to you one on one. This will assist you in making decisions on what available coverage you would like to elect for Open Enrollment (online this year) for the

2006 benefit year. (Retirees' enrollment will be paper only). Vendors include: WEBTPA, Caremark, Standard Life Ins., Trustmark, Vision Care, ARAG Group, FBMC, EAP and an assortment of additional vendors, free food booths, and many, many prizes. Check with your Department Head or Supervisor to schedule a time for screenings or to take part in this annual event.

AHH & WEBTPA – Robert Blinch-Edwards and Tom Dolsak

WEBTPA is now in place, transitioning from EMI. Also, Evolutions replaced Beech Street network.

Robert Blinch-Edwards and Tom Dolsak, addressed the group on the American Health Holdings Disease Management Program. With this future, confidential program in place, it could help reduce claims, lower blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, and improve the quality of life in general. A 7-day x 24-hour Nurse Helpline would have a nurse available to answer questions and help manage medical situations. The Internet database will allow employees to find health information and track their own health, showing medical patterns and predicts possible future medical needs.

There is no cost to the member. The City's cost is \$3.65 per employee per month, which is approximately \$52,000 for the program, which has the potential of saving \$100,000 or more. More than a one-year commitment would have to be made in order to see historical data.

The BFG unanimously approved this new Disease Management wellness initiative. Details will be forthcoming soon and information will be at the September Health Fair.

Caremark Trend Reports – Kurt Hoverter

Kurt handed out a Caremark Trend report and reviewed it with the group. Kurt explained about the generic substitution rate improvement and Biotech cost growth. He talked about the top 25 drugs by gross cost and the top 25 drugs by volume. These reports are available in the HR office anytime.

VEBA Meeting Update – Kurt Hoverter

At the VEBA sub-committee meeting in May, Marty Ferris and Merv Kennell from the county addressed the sub-committee with information on how they established and funded the county's program. It took 7 years to build up the fund and keep viable.

Future VEBA sub-committee meetings will address "what" it is we need and then a consulting firm may be brought in to assist with the "how" we want to proceed, keeping in mind tax law. More information will be presented at a later time.

Info on Pedometer Program: "Step by Step" – Linda McKinney

The City will initiate a walking fitness initiative called "Step By Step." This initiative will allow those employees that wish to, participate in a walking program by keeping track of daily steps using a pedometer provided by the City. The goal is to walk 10,000 steps every day, promoting better health/fitness. Look for more information to be communicated soon for the start of this wellness initiative.

Monthly Cost Review – Linda McKinney

Linda reviewed the months of January through April 2005, total cost charts and the pharmacy cost chart. The trends were in the good range for January, February and March. During the WEBTPA transition, some months may be uniquely high or low, such as for the month of April. These monthly cost charts are available in HR anytime.

Other Business

There were discussions on spousal surcharge and the approach of open enrollment. Mr. McNees spoke about upcoming OPEBS workshops to address funding and said recommendations have not been completed on this yet with more information to follow at a future Commission workshop. John Agen advised that the BFG would like to be made aware of the date and time of that workshop.

Linda advised the group of a Wellness Seminar by Rosie Burke of the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. This presentation entitled, "Speak Up, Help Prevent Errors in Your Care", will be Wednesday, September 28th, in the Commission Chambers beginning at noon. Look for the reminder announcements.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

John Agen adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m. The next BFG meeting is scheduled to be **Wednesday, October 5, 2005**, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Room #100 of the Federal Building.

/dv

Minutes Approved: _____

John Agen, Chairperson, or
Benita Saldutti, Vice-Chairperson