

**Benefits Focus Group Minutes  
(10/05/05)**

**Note: Regular BFG members names are listed ; non-members may attend but are not always listed.**

<u>Regular Members</u>	<u>Alternate Members</u>	<u>Staff Advisors</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
Dolly Gamble	Joyce Dolan	Robert Blinch-Edwards	Diane Vanderwest
John Glanden	Nancy Meskimen	Linda McKinney	
Pat Horan	Joe Munyak		
Bill Gaines	William Tatum		
Tom Laracey			
Dick Minster			
Benita Saldutti			
KayKae Thomas			
Al Woodle			<b>Total pres= 16</b>

**Call to Order**

Benita Saldutti called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2005 and asked for roll call.

**Roll Call**

Diane Vanderwest called the roll and recorded the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Benita called for approval of the minutes from the last meeting of August 3, 2005. The final minutes were approved as presented.

**Stats of 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual City Health Fair – KayKae Thomas**

This year's Annual City Health Fair took place at the Payne Park Auditorium (2100 Laurel St.) Friday, September 16, 2005, from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm. There were 160 health screenings. This year the screenings were set up on the stage area out of the way of the other vendors and visitors. Many employees won door prizes, donated by the various vendors and enjoyed visiting the free food booths while receiving health information and participating in the survey for the event. KayKae reported there were 216 members that attended with 35 being retirees. KayKae thanked Robert Blinch-Edwards and Wendy Prell of HCS for their assistance in receiving the donations and distributing them to the City, which made this year's event a huge success. Congratulations KayKae for a successful event this year!

Linda advised , if you signed up for the Step by Step program while at the Health Fair and received your free pedometer, but it has stopped working, stop by HR and see Linda for a replacement.

**Review of Rosie Burke Presentation of 9/28/05 – Linda McKinney**

Rosie Burke, from Chicago, of the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations presented a Wellness Seminar entitled, "Speak Up, Help Prevent Errors in Your Care", at noon on September 28 in the Commission Chambers. A few BFG members attended this very worthwhile, down-to-earth practical advice presentation on how to manage yourself in healthcare situations. Ms. Burke's theme was: If you feel something is wrong with your health care or prescriptions, don't be afraid to ask questions. Packets of handouts from that presentation and mini First Aid kits were distributed and are available in HR. If Ms. Burke is in the area at a future date, another presentation may be scheduled at a time other than noon since

overall turnout was low. Some worthwhile websites from Ms. Burke's presentation are provided in the following paragraph.

Website information with links to the handouts is available at <http://www.jcaho.org>. Other websites are: American Hospital Association is [www.hospitalconnect.com](http://www.hospitalconnect.com); Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. is [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); Infectious Diseases Society of America is [www.idsociety.org](http://www.idsociety.org); Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org) (as noted above); Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America is [www.shea-online.org](http://www.shea-online.org); and to determine if your health care organization is accredited, go to [www.qualitycheck.org](http://www.qualitycheck.org). For questions or more information, Rosie Burke's email is [rburke@jcaho.org](mailto:rburke@jcaho.org).

### **Review of 2006 Medical Rate Structure – Linda McKinney**

Linda distributed and reviewed the medical rate structure and encouraged all to attend the upcoming 2006 Benefits Enrollment Presentation scheduled during the month of October 2005. Flyers have been posted and sent out with paychecks to announce these meetings, supplying members with information for 2006 enrollment, which is scheduled to be online through the Intranet from October 24, 2005, through November 29, 2005, unless otherwise announced. Retirees will continue to enroll on paper and not online. New rates go into effect January 1, 2006. Prescription rates remain the same for next year.

Linda also distributed and reviewed the COBRA/Surviving spouse rates and Post '93 Retiree Rates, noting there is a 36-month max on COBRA for surviving spouse.

### **Monthly Cost Review – Linda McKinney**

Linda distributed and reviewed the months of May 2005, total cost charts and the pharmacy cost chart. May's total cost was almost \$600,000 compared to April's \$300,000 and down from last year during the same month. The pharmacy cost amount for May was \$110,000 compared to April's of \$130,000 and down from last year during the same month. These monthly cost charts are available in HR anytime.

### **Other Business**

There is still no further information available on upcoming OPEBS workshops. The group will be advised when this is known.

The group discussed "pill-splitting" resulting in substantial savings annually for the member and for the City. Robert will provide a list of medications and research on this topic.

As a note, our insurance cards do not have co-pays on them. Check to see you are being charged properly.

Information will be forthcoming on flu shots for this year. The Sarasota County will be providing free flu shots to City of Sarasota employees or retirees enrolled in our health care plan. The county will be administering the shots in the City Hall break room on October 27, from 9:00-12:00; at Public Works (north side of 12<sup>th</sup> Street) on November 3 from 9:00-12:00; and in the Police conference room November 15, from 9:00-12:00. Employees and retirees can go to any of the three locations to get their free flu shot. After these dates, an announcement will be made for the spouse or family members to obtain a flu shot at a cost of \$15. The county wellness clinic is no longer across the street and is now located at 1301 Cattleman Rd.

### **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

Benita Saldutti adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m. The next BFG meeting is scheduled to be **Wednesday, December 7, 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