

**Special Meeting
Benefits Focus Group Minutes
(12/06/06)**

Note: BFG member 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>
Janice Cox	William Tatum	Kurt Hoverter	Diane Vanderwest
Susie Daniels		Linda McKinney	
John Glanden			
Pat Horan			
Carol Karr			
Nancy Tolsma			
Javier Vargas			
Ed Whitehead			
Al Woodle - Chairperson			Total Present= 13

Call to Order - Chairperson

Al Woodle called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

Roll Call

Diane Vanderwest called the roll and recorded the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from 10/04/06

Al Woodle called for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The final minutes were approved with a minor typographical change.

Monthly Costs Update – Linda McKinney

The fund balance is at \$1.9million compared to \$1.3million last year. Monthly costs through September 30, 2006 were \$889,000. Final year end totals are still being worked on and will be provided at the next meeting.

Kurt attended the quarterly HCS meeting and received information on bio-tech drugs and costs. CVS is merging with Caremark.

Use your Caremark card if purchasing the generic \$4 drugs Walmart, Target and other local stores are offering. This is a way of tracking the savings.

An article on physician guidance pill splitting will appear in the employee newsletter, Sarasota Spirit. If considering this option, you may also want to consult your physician regarding changing medications vs. pill splitting.

Flu Shots Update – Nancy Tolsma

There have been 421 participants to date. Last year the total was 369. Of the 421, 50 were dependents and 50 were retirees, and 321 active employees. Numerous flu shot clinics were scheduled with the final date of 12/14/06 at Nancy's office the Federal Bldg (Room #107, first floor).

Open Enrollment Issues – April Bryan and Susie Daniels

Susie reported on the numbers for open enrollment with discussion following concerning improvements for next year's online enrollment; how to communicate the information better for active and retirees; and combining ideas to include enrollment timing with the City's annual Health Fair. Information on this will go to the departments.

Al Woodle has invited Nancy Tolsma and Susie Daniels to provide an overview of their respective specialties for the upcoming January 24, 2007, SMREA meeting.

Other Business

The Weight Watchers at Work program continues with much success. The group just finishing 12-weeks boasted a weight loss of 161.6 lbs. To date, this program has helped to provide good information for life style-changing habits with a total weight loss of 713 lbs. (One person lost 65 lbs!) This wellness initiative will continue in 2007.

If you are traveling outside of the USA, our medical coverage can be used for emergencies, usually by using your credit card and getting reimbursed with a medical claim.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

Al Woodle adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m. The next regular BFG meeting is scheduled to be **Wednesday, February 7, 2007, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** in Room #100 of the Federal Building.

/dv