

**Special Meeting
Benefits Focus Group Minutes
(10/04/06)**

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>
Susie Daniels	William Tatum	Kurt Hoverter	Diane Vanderwest
Bill Gaines		Linda Mckinney	
John Glanden			
Benita Saldutti – Vice chair		<u>HCS</u>	
Ed Whitehead		Robert Blinch-Edwards	
Al Woodle - Chairperson			
			Total Members= 10

Call to Order - Chairperson

Al Woodle called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Wednesday, October 4, 2006. Since so few members were present, the roll was not called and asked for a roll call.

Roll Call

Since so few members were present, Diane Vanderwest made a list of those present for the notes and recorded the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from 08/02/06

Al Woodle called for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The final minutes were approved as typed.

Monthly Costs Update – Linda McKinney

This month's expenses were \$1.1 million and we usually run about \$800,000. The fund is currently about \$400,000 more than what we started out with; however, we have had single claims of over \$400,000 also. We have a good chance, unless another high claim month happens, we probably will end the fund higher than we started out at the beginning of the year. The costs reported are through August, not including September due to end of year reports. The final report totals will be provided at the next meeting.

Generic Drug List – Robert Blinch-Edwards

Robert provided the group with generic drug tri-fold list showing the brand name of about 30 drugs, generic name and what the drug is commonly used for. He also handed out a proposed list of about 100 drug brands and their generic name due for launch expected between 2006 and 2009. These handouts are available in HR if needed.

Pill Splitting Information - Robert Blinch-Edwards

Robert handed out a paper on the topic of Pill Splitting - a totally voluntary procedure, listing some of the pills that can be included in any pill-splitting program. Though pill splitting can be performed, and ONLY with your doctor's approval, Caremark (your pharmacy benefit manager), the City of Sarasota and Healthcare Sarasota do not recommend this procedure – this is a totally voluntary procedure. Look for info on this in the employee newsletter (Sarasota Spirit).

Walmart and Target stores began offering certain generic drugs for \$4 in the Tampa area which includes Sarasota. This is available through our plan on about 300 of the 3,000 available generic drugs. Present your card and the U & C (usual and customary) will show \$4 and that's all you pay. The City doesn't get billed for this at all. By presenting your card you are allowing the tracking of what medications you are taking so that if there is a drug interaction or contradiction in your medications, your doctor will be informed through the pharmacy contacting Caremark.

You can also contact Caremark to find out if a certain drug you are taking has a generic available. Caremark is also expanding their drug monitoring/management program for drug abuse. Caremark sends out letters to participants advising of alternative less-expensive drugs.

On-Site Nurse Update – Linda McKinney

Linda announced that Nancy Tolsma, Registered Nurse will be starting with the City - October 11, 2006. Her office will be located at the Federal Building, first floor near the main lobby. Once her office is set up, her first priority will be the flu shots. The nurse will also be involved in various wellness programs. Part of her duties will involve blood borne pathogens, CPR and AED training. She will be getting a hearing booth; maintaining baseline hearing tests and putting a program together on health risk assessments. Nancy Tolsma will be working with Susie Daniels, once Susie is finished with the Health Fair and open enrollment. Nancy will be a contract employee, paid by the hour and not a full-time employee. Her costs and the costs for setting up and maintaining that office will be coming out of the medical fund, not out of the HR fund, which was approved by the commission during budget workshops.

The flu shots will be the first priority. Shots are at no charge to the employee and \$15 per dependent. Last year there were 369 shots administered of the approximately 2200 members (including dependents). For next year, the nurse office could communicate information on the flu shot serum 20 years ago (live virus) and today (dead virus) so that perhaps the members who have chosen to not get a flu shot may reconsider, on a voluntary basis.

Linda reported that the Health Fair was a very good one and better laid out this year. Plans for next year's include having the Health Fair in October at the same time as open enrollment and administering flu shots all at the same time, if possible.

The nurse office will not be a health clinic. If an employee has a minor injury, not requiring stitches, the nurse would be able to look at it and dress it or determine if the ER is necessary next step. This could save in ER visits in this way. Nancy will be available to discuss wellness programs and your overall health or questions about your doctor.

The BFG will be allowed to provide input or feedback for upcoming wellness programs and Nancy Tolsma will be part of the BFG.

There were about 100 blood tests provided at the Health Fair. The blood tests were provided by appointment only which was well planned.

Other Business

Susie Daniels – Open enrollment began on October 3, 2006 with the online sign-up system and mailings went out to retirees October 1. Next year plans are to have open enrollment during the Health Fair, having computers set up for this purpose while there. The software has more security and IT has more firewalls protection.

The vision plan upgraded the payment on glasses/contacts to \$105.

The area hospitals have expanded beyond Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Manatee Memorial Hospital and Venice Regional, which are the three hospitals in the Gulf Coast network for EPO1, EPO2 and PPO. The added hospitals are: Blake in Bradenton, Fawcett in Port Charlotte; Doctor’s Hospital and Englewood Hospital.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

Al Woodle adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:15 p.m. The next regular BFG meeting is scheduled to be **Wednesday, December 6, 2006**, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Room #100 of the Federal Building.

/dv

Minutes Approved: _____

Al Woodle, Chairperson
Benita Saldutti, Vice-Chairperson