



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority
One Ashburton Place, Room 805
Boston, MA 02108*

DEVAL PATRICK
Governor

TIM MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

LESLIE KIRWAN
Board Chair

JON M. KINGSDALE
Executive Director

Board of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority

Minutes

September 20, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

One Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

21st Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Leslie Kirwan, Jon Kingsdale, Rick Lord, Celia Weislo, Dolores Mitchell, Nancy Turnbull, Jonathan Gruber, Louis Malzone, Tom Dehner, and Nancy Schwartz.

- I. **Welcome:** Tom Dehner was welcomed as the official Medicaid Director. Sec. Kirwan also thanked Chip Joffe-Halpern for his service on the board and welcomed Nancy Turnbull.
- II. **Minutes:** Some changes were noted in the minutes from the previous meeting. On the third page of the minutes under Operations Report the outreach campaign conducted by the grant recipients was specified as a door to door campaign. The Plan of Operations section was revised to more clearly describe the issue of allowing employers to offer CommCare to their employees. Amended minutes approved by the board.
- III. **Executive Director's Report:** In October the Board will discuss the alternative Rx benefit that was originally brought to the board in July as well the evaluation of CommCare. The CommCare evaluation will mainly be around enrollment. Ms. Weislo requested the Rx material in advance of that meeting. Saturday September 22nd is Connector day at Fenway. Joan Fallon reviewed Connector day with the board. Governor Patrick will be in attendance and the game's program will feature a section on health care reform. An interview with three previously uninsured persons will also play on the jumbo-tron.
- IV. **Operations Report:** Rosemarie Day presented the Commonwealth Care and Commonwealth Choice operational updates. 20% of the 115,000 Commonwealth Care enrollees are premium paying. Ms. Turnbull thought it would be of interest to see some numbers around the churn of people in and out of the program. Eligibles for Plan Type 2A were given the summer to enroll on their own. Gradual auto-assignment of these people will begin in October. The board requested data on UCP usage. Connector staff and Maximus continue to think about strategies regarding the continuing high call volume. The majority of the 7,164 Commonwealth Choice members are non-group. 40% of the applications for September 1 coverage were for Bronze plans, followed by 30% for YAPs. The website continues to be an important tool for those interested in Commonwealth Choice and the Connector is working to improve the infrastructure for employers.

- V. **FY 08 Goals:** The draft FY 08 goals were divided between Commonwealth Care, Commonwealth Choice, Health Care Reform, and Operations and Finance. Ms. Day reviewed each of these areas individually. Ms. Mitchell asked that the objective of controlling costs of contracting with MMCOs be rephrased as to more accurately represent our intentions. For Commonwealth Choice Sec. Kirwan noted that member numbers are not the only measure of success for the program. Mr. Kingsdale reported that staff is tracking premium trends and will bring this information to the board when appropriate. The board requested that cost containment be included as an objective for FY 08. There was a brief discussion about whether the Connector needs an IRB. Ms. Wcislo reminded the board to be cognizant of those people that do not have access to the internet. The board tentatively approved the draft goals and will offer official approval at the next meeting after the goals have been revised.
- VI. **Review draft Board Calendar for FY 08:** Ms. Day reviewed with the board upcoming important decisions. The board requested a separate calendar that outlines the MMCO bid process. Mr. Kingsdale and Sec. Kirwan will work to find the right time to discuss employers offering CommCare to employees pre-tax.
- VII. **Approval of Line of Credit:** A summary of the key terms for the line of credit was distributed to the board. Patrick Holland thanked the Treasurers office and Sovereign Bank for their assistance in setting up this line of credit. The credit exists only for emergency purposes and the Connector does not plan on utilizing it. The line of credit is for 4 million dollars. Ms. Turnbull motioned to approve the line of credit, Ms. Wcislo seconded. All approved.
- VIII. **Walk-through of Website Functionality for Employers:** Bob Nevins presented a simulation of the shopping experience for employers and employees. The website links to materials that employers can give to employees about shopping through the Connector. Employers are also able to return to the website to manage their account and track employee applications. Ms. Wcislo suggested that the website clearly designate that it wants an employee's residential zip code and not their work zip code. Mr. Nevins also updated the board that Connector staff was working aggressively to eliminate the use of SIC code.

Kevin Counihan announced that many industry leaders have decided to offer Connector products to their employees not eligible for their main line benefit. Some of the 3,000 employers that have signed on include Raytheon, Fidelity, Harvard University, Staples, Children's Hospital, and the city of Boston. There is a fixed premium rate for employees who join. Mr. Counihan will come back to the board at an appropriate time to review how employers are communicating these benefits to their employees. There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerry Connolly