

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

OPEN MINUTES JANUARY 27, 2022 ZOOM MEETING - 9:30 AM

Meeting of Fund Commissioners called to order by Silvio Esposito, Chair. Open Public Meetings notice read into record.

ROLL CALL OF 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FUND COMMISSIONERS

2021 Executive Committee		
Silvio Esposito, Chair	Township of Hanover	Present
Scott Heck, Secretary	Borough of Ringwood	Absent
Stephen Mountain	Township of Randolph	Present
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights	Present
Tom Russo	Town of Newton	Present
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE	Present
Executive Committee Alternates:		
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford	Present
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston	Present
Fund Commissioners		
Mike Sondermeyer	Borough of Bloomingdale	Present
Michael Restel	Township of Wantage	Absent
Neil Spidaletto	Township of Sparta	Present
Diana Francisco	Andover Township*	Absent
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*	Present
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park	Present
john schmidt	Township of Dover	Present
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding	Absent
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*	Present
Joe Sabatini	Township of Byram*	Absent
James Burnett	Borough of Madison*	Absent
Open	Borough of Mountain Lakes*	
Open	Township of Prospect Park	
John Shepherd	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Debra Millikin	Township of Jefferson*	Absent
Open	Kinnelon	
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock	Present
Fund Commissioner Alternates		
Ashleigh Frueholz	Township of Byram*	Absent
Jennifer Dodd	Town of Newton	Present
Lisa Spring	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Gabby Evangelista	Borough of Wharton	Present

Perry Mayers	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Sherry Gallagher	Township of Bloomingdale	Absent
Michele Landtau	Township of Sparta	Absent
John Bennett	Township of Dover	Absent
Open	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Sandra Emmerich	Borough of Madison*	Absent
* Dental Only		

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director	PERMA Risk Management Services	Brandon Lodics Emily Koval Jordyn DeLorenzo
Program Manager	Vozza Agency	David Vozza Randi Gerber
Attorney	Dorsey & Semrau	Fred Semrau
Claims Administrator	Aetna	Jason Silverstein
Dental Administrator	Delta Dental	Brian Remlinger Kim White
Prescription Administrator	Express Scripts	Michael Stahl
Treasurer	Michael Soccio	Michael Soccio
Auditor	Nisivoccia	
Actuary	John Vataha	
Wellness Coordinator	Cavitas	Marianne Eskilson

PRESENT FUND PROFESSIONALS:

Brittan Vozza
 Rene Gear
 Ed Pasternak
 Ralph Valente
 Bud Jones
 Lisa Sabato
 Mary Muscarella
 Joe Rude
 Suzanne McCarney

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF OPEN OCTOBER 2021 MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES OF October 28, 2021:

MOTION:	Commissioner Mountain
SECOND:	Commissioner Brewer
VOTE:	All in Favor

Chairman Esposito turned over the meeting to Emily Koval, Account Manager of the Executive Director's Office.

CALL TO ORDER THE SINE DIE MEETING:

ROLL CALL OF THE 2022 FUND COMMISSIONERS

2022 Executive Committee		
Silvio Esposito, Chair	Township of Hanover	Present
Scott Heck, Secretary	Borough of Ringwood	Absent
Stephen Mountain	Township of Randolph	Present
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights	Present
Tom Russo	Town of Newton	Present
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE	Present
Executive Committee Alternates:		
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford	Present
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston	Present
Fund Commissioners		
Mike Sondermeyer	Borough of Bloomingdale	Present
Michael Restel	Township of Wantage	Absent
Neil Spidaletto	Township of Sparta	Present
Diana Francisco	Andover Township*	Absent
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*	Present
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park	Present
john schmidt	Township of Dover	Present
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding	Absent
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*	Present
Joe Sabatini	Township of Byram*	Absent
James Burnett	Borough of Madison*	Absent
Open	Borough of Mountain Lakes*	
Open	Township of Prospect Park	
John Shepherd	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Debra Millikin	Township of Jefferson*	Absent
Open	Kinnelon	
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock	Present
Fund Commissioner Alternates		
Ashleigh Frueholz	Township of Byram*	Absent
Jennifer Dodd	Town of Newton	Present
Lisa Spring	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Gabby Evangelista	Borough of Wharton	Present

Perry Mayers	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Sherry Gallagher	Township of Bloomingdale	Absent
Michele Landtau	Township of Sparta	Absent
John Bennett	Township of Dover	Absent
Open	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Sandra Emmerich	Borough of Madison*	Absent
* Dental Only		

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ALTERNATES

Recommended Slate:

Silvio Esposito, Chair
 Scott Heck, Secretary
 Stephen Mountain
 Barbara Russo
 Tom Russo
 Dina Valente - Stoel
 Tammy Smith

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECCOMENDED SLATE AS PRESENTED:

MOTION: Commissioner Mountain
SECOND: Commissioner Kaufer

PERMA's Account Manager Emily Koval opened the floor to any other nominations for the 2022 Executive Committee. No other recommendations were given.

ROLL CALL OF THE PRESENT FUND COMMISSISIONERS TO ELECT THE 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE FUND COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO ELECT THE 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
14 Yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN SINE DIE MEETING:

MOTION: Commissioner Esposito
SECOND: Commissioner T. Russo
 All In Favor

MEETING OF FUND COMMISSIONERS CALLED TO ORDER BY SILVIO ESPOSITO, CHAIR. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE READ INTO RECORD.

Emily Koval reviewed the new 2022 Executive Committee

MOTION TO APPROVE ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MOTION:

Commissioner T. Russo

SECOND:

Commissioner Esposito

All in Favor

MOTION TO CLOSE AND CONFIRM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

ALL IN FAVOR

OATH OF OFFICE

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALLED TO ORDER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Retired Executive Director Paul Laracy spoke about his retirement at the end of 2021 and that he is turning over the roll to Brandon Lodics. Chairman Esposito thanked Paul for his years of service and help over the years. Executive Director Brandon Lodics thanked Paul for his guidance over the years.

Executive Director Brandon Lodics stated that Aetna has made the Office aware that due to the pandemic and the challenges of recruiting/maintaining talent, they are experiencing a lag in their claims department. They have a crop of new hires in training currently in the hopes this will fix this issue. However, there is likely some impact on the IBNR that is being reported in the financial fast track.

FINANCIAL FAST TRACK -Executive Director Brandon Lodics reviewed the Financial fast track through November. MR. Lodics stated that about a \$300,000 surplus was added in November with a moderate reduction in the budget. The fund still holds a very strong surplus of about \$15 million which is well over two and a half months of claims.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS

Account Manager Emily Koval from the Executive Director's Office stated that the office sent out a revised Resolution 1-22 appointing fund professionals prior to the meeting which will be included in the agenda on the website when posted. Ms. Koval stated that Brandon Lodics name should be in place of Paul Laracy as Executive Director and the fees for the Program Manager's office are also revised. Mr. Koval reviewed resolution 1 thru 11 with notes on the following:

#5-22 - adding The Record as a second paper for the HIF.

#6-22 - The November meeting falls on Thanksgiving, so we are recommending holding the November meeting on Thursday December 2nd. Also revising the February meeting date to 2/23/22.

#8-22 - Current Signatories -Need to be revised for 2022

#9-22 - RMP - There are two new changes, which are highlighted, regarding fully insured members. In addition, the surplus cap policy discussed last year has been included.

#10-22 - MRHIF Commissioners need to be elected. The Commissioners agreed to continue with Silvio Esposito and Tammy Smith as the representatives.

Ms. Koval stated that there are Amendments in 1-22 and 5-22.

Chairman Esposito stated that they can do consent as a whole at the end.

MUNICIPAL REINSURANCE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Account Manager Koval stated that all of the local funds had adopted the specific limits and the assessments given to them by the MRHFI and that was approved at the last MRHIF meeting. Also at that meeting, the new ESI level care contract was approved at that level and a copy of that should be available for review.

INDEMNITY AND TRUST AGREEMENTS

Ms. Koval reminded the members of the Indemnity and Trust agreements that are past due.

2022 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Koval stated there is a vacancy in the operations committee if anyone is interested please reach out to herself or the Chair.

VOUCHER PROCESS

Ms. Koval reminded the vendors to please submit the signed vouchers monthly in a timely matter to guarantee payment.

PRORAM MANAGER REPORT

Program Manager Dave Vozza thanked Paul Laracy for all of his hard work with the HIFS and wished him well on his retirement. Mr. Vozza also stated the passing of Peter VanWinkle who was the former Chair of the BMED HIF.

NATIONAL OPIOID LEGISLATION

Mr. Vozza stated that they went through the Attorney General's Office to answer some questions about the groups receiving notices of the option to participate in the National Opioid Settlement(s).

In order to participate, each state decides whether to participate in the Settlements. New Jersey joined the Settlements. Second, the political subdivisions within each participating state must then decide whether to participate in the Settlement. Generally, the more subdivisions that participate, the greater the amount of funds that flow to that state and its participating subdivisions. Any subdivision that does not participate cannot directly share in any of the settlement funds, even if the subdivision's state is settling and other participating subdivisions are sharing in settlement funds. The original deadline for filing was January 2nd all though subsequently extended to 1/26/22 due to Covid.

Our office worked directly with qualifying groups (towns with populations >10,000) to provide the needed code and instruction on registering to Opt. Into the settlement. We are pleased to report that all qualifying groups successfully opted-In and registered by the original deadline.

They are monitoring this through the MRHIF as well to see if there are additional litigation going on

or the possibility of getting the smaller towns eligible too.

MRHIF 2022 RENEWAL

The MRHIF Reinsurance Agreement with US Fire has been finalized and filed with the State. The Local HIF Agreement is being drafted and will be forwarded shortly for signature.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION – COVERAGE FOR COVID 19 TEST KITS

Randi Gerber reviewed the COVID at home test coverage. The Biden-Harris Administration is requiring insurance companies and group health plans to cover the cost of over the counter at home COVID – 19 tests. Individuals covered under a group health plan can get up to 8 tests per month for free starting on January 15th.

After reviewing available options, the HIF's will comply by covering the kits through Express – Scripts under the funds pharmacy benefit. Express – Scripts pharmacy networks are able to accommodate the point of sale requirement and edits to manage the allowable quantity. This solution will ease the burden on the participant by providing access to a zero out of pocket option at the time of purchase. We expect implementation to “go live” around January 28, 2022. The maximum reimbursement is \$12 per test. I have included a copy of the ESI claim form as a separate attachment which can be distributed for members use.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

Brittany Vozza stated that the 2022 wellness program is underway. They will be entering its eighth year of the program. The Committee members met via zoom on January 20th, 2022, to discuss the upcoming year and components. Ms. Vozza reviewed the major components of year 8 of the program included in the agenda.

Ms. Vozza also wanted to say congratulations to the current members for excellent 2021 results, 92% of participating members have completed the program.

2021 Program Results

Member	Enrolled	Completed	Percentage Completed
Bloomingtondale	41	39	96%
Hanover	38	37	98%
Hardyston	24	17	70%
Lincoln Park	34	27	80%
Pequannock	10	10	100%
Randolph	62	58	94%
Sparta	58	54	93%
Wantage	16	16	100%
Wharton	21	10	50%
Totals	294	268	92%

WELLNESS COORDINATOR - Marianne Eskilson provided an update on the wellness program. Mrs. Eskilson stated that the newsletter is live for the members. They will be sending a product out to the participating and non-participating members about the newsletter. Mrs. Eskilson reviewed the Cavitas report that was send as an additional attachment with the agenda.

TREASURER: Mike Soccio reviewed the treasures report and bills list.

Confirmation of Payment : November 2021 Bills List

FUND YEAR JANUARY 2021	AMOUNT
FY 2021	\$566,751.95
TOTAL	\$566,751.95

Confirmation of Payment : November 2021 Dividends List

FUND YEAR JANUARY 2021	AMOUNT
TOTAL	\$12,612.44

Confirmation of Payment : December 2021 Dividends List

FUND YEAR JANUARY 2021	AMOUNT
TOTAL	\$333,055.98

Resolution: 12-22 : December 2021 Bills List

FUND YEAR JANUARY 2021	AMOUNT
FY 2021	\$560,162.89
TOTAL	\$560,162.89

AETNA: Jason Silverstein reviewed the Aetna report in the agenda. Mr. Silverstein reviewed the September, October and November claims. The high cost claimants report showed there were 4 high claimants for the month of September over the threshold of \$50,000 and 5 for the month of October. Mr. Silverstein stated that the dashboard metrics continue to perform well although the average speed to answer and financial accuracy is below target level. As Mr. Lodics stated earlier, Aetna is taking the necessary steps to improve those numbers and will keep everyone updated at the next meeting. He reviewed the COVID-19 reports attached in the agenda.

DELTA DENTAL: No report.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS: Mike Stahl said the November claims came in at \$586,382 for a YTD total of \$7,223,587 resulting in a -5.2% trend for the month of November.

ATTORNEY: Fund Attorney thanked the fund for reappointment in the 2022 fund year. He was pleased to announce there are no cases pending in court and the fund has a very good track record when it comes to court claims. Mr. Semrau turned the report over to Mr. Ed Pasternak. Mr. Pasternak stated they have a recommendation to appeal #2022-0-01. They seek approval to reject two pre litigation demands that were made as not being in accord with the applicable plan documents. Chairman Esposito affirmed his actions.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ALL OF THE AMENDMENTS STATED :

MOTION:	Commissioner Sondermeyer
SECOND:	Commissioner John Schmidt
VOTE:	Roll Call after below comment:

Mr. Semrau suggested that for the Amendment in 1-22 that both Brandon and Emily's name be posted under the PERMA Risk Management section of the resolution. No Committee Member objected.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The Executive Committee thanked Paul for his years of service with all the HIFS.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MOTION TO ADJOURN :

MOTION:	Commissioner Somermeyer
SECOND:	Commissioner Kaufer
VOTE:	All in Favor

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:30 am

NEXT MEETING: February 24, 2022, 9:30 am
ZOOM MEETING

Jordyn DeLorenzo
For

Scott Heck, Secretary

Date Prepared: 2/17/2022

APPENDIX II

NJHIF WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2022

Conference Call

9:00am

Attendees:

Silvio Esposito, Chair

Steve Mountain, Committee Member

Carinne Picollo-Kaufer, Committee Member

Michele Landtau

Marianne Eskilson, Civitas

Brittany Voza, Voza Agency

Randi Gerber, Voza Agency

Jordyn DeLorenzo, PERMA

Emily Koval, PERMA

Dave Voza, Voza Agency

Brittney Lally

Wellness Coordinator Marianne Eskilson reviewed the 2022 Programing which included: Nutrition Counseling – Pequannock; Fitness Assessment/Training – Randolph/Hardyston/Sparta; DermDetch – Hanover/Wharton/Lincoln Park; and Life Line – Bloomingdale/Wantage.

Marianne reviewed the 2022 forms that were sent to each member. The Annual Agency Application will show a commitment to the program and understand everyone's roll. NJMEBF/Participating Agency Partnership Support Memo will be distributed with Participation Agreements to eligible employees. (Different content for different component years.) Carrine wanted to confirm that the wellness program is no longer doing fit bits or fitness trackers. Finalizing NJMEBF Incentive for Non-Participating Agencies to Commit to Participating in 2022: They agreed that they are going to stick with the \$205 and \$250 but think about a possibility of a slight increase for the future.

Ms. Picollo-Kaufer and Stephen Mountain spoke about the education requirements and challenge obligations for the program. The Committee Members as well as the Chair spoke about the topic and agreed that there are 4 challenges that should be completed by the agencies. Two of them will be educational and two of them will be nutritional. Marianne stated that there will be plenty of options for people to choose from including several webinars a months from physicians, financial planners and so on that you can watch at anytime.

Mrs. Eskilson also stated that the newsletter is going to be rolling out which will outline what is coming up the next month and the hope is that people will be interested in the program and what is being offered. Ms. Eskilson also went over how they are being distributed and the Roll-Out Date to be Determined by Participating vs. Non-Participating Agencies and 6-Part Series on 2022 Goals, Strengths, Resistance to Change and Moving Forward (Optional Opportunity for Local Programming – Available, but not required)