

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND



**MAY 23, 2024
RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HALL
9:30 AM
AGENDA AND REPORTS**

Meeting Location: Township of Randolph Municipal Building

502 Millbrook Ave.
Randolph, NJ 07869
Tel: 973.989.7100
Fax: 973.989.7096

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN BY (1) SENDING SUFFICIENT NOTICE HERewith TO THE STAR LEDGER, (2) FILING ADVANCE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WITH THE CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR OF EACH MEMBER MUNICIPALITY AND (3) POSTING A COPY OF THE MEETING NOTICE ON THE PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARD OF ALL MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES.

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
AGENDA MEETING: MAY 23, 2024
RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HALL
9:30 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE READ

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL OF 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2024 Executive Committee	
Scott Heck, Chair	Borough of Ringwood
Tom Russo, Secretary	Town of Newton
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE
Silvio Esposito	Township of Hanover
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston
Greg Poff	Borough of Randolph*
Executive Committee Alternates:	
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *January 25 & March 28, 2024*

Open Appendix I

CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PERMA)

Monthly Report Page 4
Resolution 24-17: Approval of FY 2023 AuditPage 10
Resolution 24-18: Closure of FY 2022.....Page 13

PROGRAM MANAGER- (Vozza Agency)

Monthly Report Page 15
Resolution 24-19: New Member Offering: Mendham Twp Page 21
Resolution 24-20: Adding the GLP -1 ESI Program Page 22

TREASURER - (Michael Soccio)

April and May 2024 Voucher List Page 27

Confirmation of Claims Paid/Certification of Transfers	
Ratification of Treasurers Report	
Resolution 24-21: April and May 2024 Bills List	Page 34

ATTORNEY – (Edward Pasternack, Esq)	
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Resolution 24-22: Litigation : MB & CS	Page 40

NETWORK & THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR – (Aetna – Jason Silverstein)	
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PRESCRIPTION ADMINISTRATOR – (Express Scripts-Charles Yuk)	
Monthly Report	Page 45

DENTAL ADMINISTRATOR – (Delta Dental)	
Monthly Report	Page 50

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

RESOLUTION - EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED PURPOSES
PERSONNEL - CLAIMS - LITIGATION

MEETING ADJOURNED

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
MAY 23, 2024**

FINANCE

PRO FORMA REPORTS

- **Fast Track Financial Report** – as of March 31, 2024 (page 5)

AUDITOR AND ACTUARY YEAR-END REPORTS

A draft of the Fund Year 2023 Audit, performed by the Fund auditor, Nisivoccia is attached. The Finance Committee will be reviewing prior to the meeting and will send a final upon receipt. A representative from Nisivoccia will be in attendance to present their findings. Should there be any comments, PERMA will be prepared to answer. Resolution 24-17 approving and authorization to file with the state is included in the consent agenda, along with the affidavit to be signed by all present Commissioners.

Once this audit is filed, PERMA recommends the closure of Fund Year 2022. All IBNR has been expensed and there are no outstanding accounts receivable or payable. Resolution 2418- allows for closing this year.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

All Fund Commissioners should have received their financial disclosure statements the first week of April. As a reminder, the role of Fund Commissioner is a separate filing from that of your municipality obligation. As of 5/6/2024, the following Commissioners need to complete the filing for the Fund. Reminder: All elected positions, JIF and HIF Commissioner positions must have a separate filing.

As of 5/15/24, There are 3 Commissioners out of compliance that have been contacted. We expect full compliance.

CONTRACT REVIEWS

The North HIF has professional contracts that expire at the end of 2024, and others that have possible extensions. We will have a contracts committee meeting prior to the July meeting to review and recommend certain RFPs and/or extensions.

HIF COOPERATIVE PURCHASING SYSTEM

We are pleased to report that the Health Insurance Cooperative Pricing System has been approved by the State.

Due to the collective value of the Medical Third-Party Administrator contract, the Co-op will need pre-approval from the Office of the Comptroller. We are working with the MRHIF QPA to develop the draft for OSC review. We are working towards a release date by end of June.

WEX (BENEFITS EXPRESS) BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION - MANDATORY USE

Beginning in 2011 on behalf of the Local Funds the Executive Director of the MRHIF entered into a subcontract agreement with WEX (formerly Benefits Express) to provide Benefits Administration services. These services included: enrollment, billing, COBRA, and other administrative services.

The intent of the transition was to support the rapid growth of the Funds by introducing automation into an analog and manual process. It was approved by vote that Fund entities would take over the function of entering employee, retiree and dependent enrollments utilizing the Web based WEX system. This transition of duties was agreed to be mandatory for all Fund participants.

We do not have 100% compliance in this requirement by our HIF members. As a reminder, eligibility, and enrollment the requirement of the entities, though PERMA has in place support to assist members in troubleshooting the system, the team is multifaceted with other roles and responsibilities dedicated to servicing our members. To assure our resources are properly aligned with their intended scope of services, the mandatory requirement will be reinforced.

Beginning on June 1, 2024, the enrollment/billing team members have been instructed that they are no longer able to process enrollments on behalf of entities.

As a reminder regular live video system training is available every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00.

GASB 75 REPORTS

The Fund contracts with an Actuary to provide GASB 75 reports on behalf of its medical members. Please reach out to Emily Koval if your audit requires a full report or update to last year's report. During its 'busy' season, reports can take up to 4 weeks to turn around.

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND						
FINANCIAL FAST TRACK REPORT						
		AS OF	March 31, 2024			
		THIS MONTH	YTD CHANGE	PRIOR YEAR END	FUND BALANCE	
1.	UNDERWRITING INCOME	5,331,611	15,246,733	839,803,082	855,049,815	
2.	CLAIM EXPENSES					
	Paid Claims	3,620,349	12,827,260	698,809,897	711,637,157	
	IBNR	562,903	1,492,581	3,677,424	5,170,005	
	Less Specific Excess	-	-	(21,558,076)	(21,558,076)	
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL CLAIMS		4,183,252	14,319,841	680,929,245	695,249,086	
3.	EXPENSES					
	MA & HMO Premiums	284,000	856,252	26,121,322	26,977,574	
	Excess Premiums	339,566	1,026,715	35,004,790	36,031,505	
	Administrative	96,306	638,666	55,763,762	56,402,428	
TOTAL EXPENSES		719,872	2,521,632	116,889,874	119,411,506	
4.	UNDERWRITING PROFIT/(LOSS) (1-2-3)	428,487	(1,594,741)	41,983,963	40,389,222	
5.	INVESTMENT INCOME	51,026	143,945	5,500,768	5,644,713	
6.	DIVIDEND INCOME	-	-	6,212,250	6,212,250	
7.	STATUTORY PROFIT/(LOSS) (4+5+6)	479,513	(1,450,796)	53,696,981	52,246,185	
8.	DIVIDEND	-	-	42,501,592	42,501,592	
9.	Transferred Surplus	-	-		-	
STATUTORY SURPLUS (7-8+9)		479,513	(1,450,796)	11,195,389	9,744,593	
SURPLUS (DEFICITS) BY FUND YEAR						
Closed		Surplus	32,279	98,991	9,794,331	9,893,322
		Cash	19,086	28,443	12,578,355	12,606,798
2022		Surplus	4,495	(28,839)	1,653,100	1,624,261
		Cash	4,260	53,710	1,570,467	1,624,177
2023		Surplus	227,008	(1,076,289)	(252,043)	(1,328,332)
		Cash	398,604	(1,640,509)	870,567	(769,942)
2024		Surplus	215,732	(444,659)		(444,659)
		Cash	(7,050)	1,108,720		1,108,720
TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICITS)		479,513	(1,450,796)	11,195,388	9,744,592	
TOTAL CASH		414,901	(449,636)	15,019,389	14,569,752	
CLAIM ANALYSIS BY FUND YEAR						
TOTAL CLOSED YEAR CLAIMS		4,667	12,313	606,498,280	606,510,594	
FUND YEAR 2022						
	Paid Claims	1,923	48,122	33,222,806	33,270,928	
	IBNR	-	-		-	
	Less Specific Excess	-	-	(920,136)	(920,136)	
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL FY 2022 CLAIMS		1,923	48,122	32,302,670	32,350,792	
FUND YEAR 2023						
	Paid Claims	347,042	4,377,300	38,450,871	42,828,171	
	IBNR	(404,516)	(3,125,809)	3,677,424	551,615	
	Less Specific Excess	-	-	-	-	
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL FY 2023 CLAIMS		(57,474)	1,251,491	42,128,295	43,379,786	
FUND YEAR 2024						
	Paid Claims	3,266,716	8,389,526		8,389,526	
	IBNR	967,419	4,618,390		4,618,390	
	Less Specific Excess	-	-		-	
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-		-	
TOTAL FY 2024 CLAIMS		4,234,135	13,007,916		13,007,916	
COMBINED TOTAL CLAIMS		4,183,252	14,319,841	680,929,246	695,249,087	

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND				
RATIOS				
		FY2024		
INDICES	2023	JAN	FEB	MAR
Cash Position	15,019,389	\$ 12,677,102	\$ 14,154,852	\$ 14,569,752
IBNR	3,677,424	\$ 4,007,308	\$ 4,607,101	\$ 5,170,005
Assets	17,877,237	\$ 17,175,672	\$ 16,710,912	\$ 17,759,260
Liabilities	6,681,850	\$ 6,833,350	\$ 7,445,834	\$ 8,014,669
Surplus	11,195,387	\$ 10,342,322	\$ 9,265,078	\$ 9,744,591
Claims Paid -- Month	4,339,867	\$ 4,646,910	\$ 4,560,002	\$ 3,620,349
Claims Budget -- Month	3,818,377	\$ 4,027,825	\$ 4,020,145	\$ 4,481,615
Claims Paid -- YTD	42,316,097	\$ 4,646,910	\$ 9,206,912	\$ 12,827,260
Claims Budget -- YTD	41,738,979	\$ 4,027,825	\$ 8,047,970	\$ 12,529,585
RATIOS				
Cash Position to Claims Paid	3.46	2.73	3.10	4.02
Claims Paid to Claims Budget -- Month	1.14	1.15	1.13	0.81
Claims Paid to Claims Budget -- YTD	1.01	1.15	1.14	1.0
Cash Position to IBNR	4.08	3.16	3.07	2.82
Assets to Liabilities	2.68	2.51	2.24	2.22
Surplus as Months of Claims	2.93	2.57	2.30	2.17
IBNR to Claims Budget -- Month	7 0.96	0.99	1.15	1.15

North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

BY FUND YEAR

	NJMEB 2024	NJMEB 2023	NJMEB 2022	CLOSED YEAR	FUND BALANCE
ASSETS					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,108,720	(769,942)	1,624,177	12,606,798	14,569,752
Assesmtments Receivable (Prepaid)	2,184,066	(1,881)	(3,147)	-	2,179,038
Interest Receivable	270	3,590	3,231	25,669	32,760
Specific Exæss Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Aggregate Exæss Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Admin Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Other Assets	957,209	20,500	-	-	977,709
Total Assets	4,250,265	(747,733)	1,624,261	12,632,467	17,759,260
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	-	-	-	-	-
IBNR Reserve	4,618,390	551,615	-	-	5,170,005
A4 Retiree Surcharge	-	10,094	-	-	10,094
Dividends Payable	-	-	-	187,498	187,498
Retained Dividends	-	-	-	2,551,647	2,551,647
Accrued/Other Liabilities	76,535	18,890	-	-	95,425
Total Liabilities	4,694,925	580,599	-	2,739,145	8,014,669
EQUITY					
Surplus / (Deficit)	(444,659)	(1,328,332)	1,624,261	9,893,321	9,744,591
Total Equity	(444,659)	(1,328,332)	1,624,261	9,893,321	9,744,591
Total Liabilities & Equity	4,250,265	(747,733)	1,624,261	12,632,467	17,759,260
BALANCE	-	-	-	-	-

This report is based upon information which has not been audited nor certified
by an actuary and as such may not truly represent the condition of the fund.
Fund Year allocation of claims have been estimated.

North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund						
2024 Budget Report						
AS OF MARCH 31, 2024						
				Cumulative	\$ Variance	% Variance
	Cumulative	Annual	Latest Filed	Expensed		
LINE ITEMS						
Medical Claims Aetna	11,286,879	47,936,250	39,546,391			
Medical Claims Aetna BOEs	140,814	563,256	595,717			
Subtotal Medical Claims	11,427,693	48,499,506	40,142,108	11,850,220	(422,527)	-4%
Prescription Claims	752,109	3,088,720	2,558,040			
Subtotal Rx Claims	752,109	3,088,720	2,558,040	751,859	250	0%
Dental Claims	417,908	1,680,642	1,630,553	405,837	12,071	3%
Subtotal	12,597,710	53,268,868	44,330,701	13,007,916	(410,206)	-3%
Medicare Advantage - United	145,238	576,509	596,569	Included in Medicare Advantage-Aetna below		
Medicare Advantage - Aetna	732,213	3,105,720	2,389,779	856,252	21,200	2%
Reinsurance						
Specific	1,045,516	4,317,621	3,975,900	1,026,715	18,801	2%
Wellness	70,750	283,000	283,000	70,749	1	0%
Total Loss Fund	14,591,427	61,551,718	51,575,949	14,961,631	(370,204)	-3%
Expenses						
Legal	5,125	20,500	20,500	5,776	(651)	-13%
Treasurer	5,858	23,433	23,433	5,859	(1)	0%
Administrator	126,351	527,608	459,793	123,137	3,213	3%
Program Manager -	168,084	704,679	605,584	151,725	16,358	10%
Program Manager - Brokerage	176,872	(535,386)	717,435	189,800	(12,928)	-7%
TPA - Aetna	230,400	974,898	818,952	222,413	7,987	3%
Wellness Coordinator	6,250	25,000	25,000	6,250	-	0%
Dental TPA	19,476	78,353	78,597	19,479	(3)	0%
Actuary	3,184	12,735	12,734	3,185	(1)	0%
Auditor	4,453	17,811	17,811	4,452	1	0%
Subtotal Expenses	746,051	1,849,631	2,779,840	732,077	13,975	2%
Miscellaneous and Special Services						
Misc/Cont(incl. A4 surcharge)	10,625	42,500	42,500	704	9,921	93%
Claims and Service Audits	10,000	40,000	40,000	0	-	0%
Affordable Care Act Taxes	3,333	14,103	11,847	3,334	(1)	0%
Subtotal Misc/Sp Svcs	23,958	96,603	94,347	4,038	9,920	41%
Total Expenses	770,009	1,946,235	2,874,188	736,115	23,894.67	3%
Total Budget	15,361,436	63,497,953	54,450,137	15,697,746	(346,309)	-2%

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
CERTIFICATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT FOR
PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2023 has been filed by the appointed Fund Auditor with the Secretary of the Fund as per the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 and N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36, and a copy has been received by each Fund Commissioner, and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34, and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the Fund Commissioners of the Fund shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all Fund Commissioners have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled:

General Comments
and
Recommendations

and

WHEREAS, the Fund Commissioners have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

General Comments
and
Recommendations

as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the Fund Commissioners.

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Fund Commissioners no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, all Fund Commissioners have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the Fund Commissioners to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 - to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 - "A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee hereby states that they have complied with the promulgation of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, dated July 30, 1968, and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

ADOPTED: MAY 23, 2024

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST: _____
SECRETARY

GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM
CERTIFICATION OF FUND COMMISSIONERS
Of the
NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

We the Fund Commissioners of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund, of full age, being duly sworn according to law, upon our oath depose and say:

1.) We are duly elected members Fund Commissioners of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund.

2.) In the performance of our duties, and pursuant to the Local Finance Board Regulation, we have familiarized ourselves with the contents of the Annual Fund Audit filed with the Secretary of the Fund pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 and N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 for the year 2022

3.) We certify that we have personally reviewed and are familiar with, as a minimum, the sections of the Annual Report of Audit entitled:

GENERAL COMMENTS - RECOMMENDATIONS

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

_____(L.S.)

Attest:

Secretary to the Fund

The Secretary of the Fund shall set forth the reason for the absence of signature of any members of the Executive Committee.

Important: This certificate must be sent to the Division of Local Government Services, CN 803, Trenton, NJ 08625.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-18

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
APPROVAL TO CLOSE FUND YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the **North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund** held a Public Meeting on **May 23, 2024** for the purposes of conducting the official business of the Fund; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2022 has been filed by the appointed Fund Auditor with the Secretary of the Fund as per the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 and N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36, and a copy has been received by each Fund Commissioner, and

WHEREAS, the Fund Treasurer confirmed that the Fund outstanding receivables and payables of Fund Year 2022 have been satisfied;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the of the Central Jersey Health Insurance Fund hereby close Fund Year 2022 into its Closed Year Accounting.

ADOPTED: May 23, 2024

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

Year: 2024

<u>Monthly Items</u>	<u>Filing Status</u>
Budget	Filed
Assessments	Filed
Actuarial Certification	Filed
Reinsurance Policies	Filed
Fund Commissioners	Filed
Fund Officers	Filed
Renewal Resolutions	Filed
Indemnity and Trust	Filed
New Members	N/A
Withdrawals	N/A
Risk Management Plan and By Laws	Filed
Cash Management Plan	Filed
Unaudited Financials	9/30/2023 Filed
Annual Audit	12/31/2022 filed
Budget Changes	N/A
Transfers	N/A
Additional Assessments	N/A
Professional Changes	N/A
Officer Changes	N/A
RMP Changes	Filed
Bylaw Amendments	N/A
Contracts	Filed
Benefit Changes	N/A

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Professional</u>	<u>Current Contract Term</u>	<u>Last RFP</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Executive Director	PERMA	1/1/2023 - 12/31/2025	8/11/2022	
Program Manager	Vozza Agency	1/1/2022-12/31/2024	7/1/2021	
Attorney	Dorsey & Semrau	1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Treasurer	Mike Soccio	1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Actuary	John Vataha	1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Auditor	Holman & Frenia	1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Medical TPA	Aetna	1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	9/1/2023	
Medicare Advantage	Aetna	1/1/2022 - 12/31/2024		
Medicare Advantage	UHC	1/1/2022 - 12/31/2024		
Wellness Education & Nutrition		1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Heart Scan Services		1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Wellness Coordinator		1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Fitness Component		1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028
Sleep Study		1/1/2024- 12/31/2024	7/29/2020	*5 additional extensions through 2028



Office of the Program Manager
North Jersey Municipal Benefits Fund



An Insurance and Risk Management Corporation

77 Market Street • P.O. Box 100 • Park Ridge, New Jersey 07656 • Phone (201) 573-1000 • Fax (201)573-1004

TO: Executive Committee
North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund

FROM: The Vozza Agency - Office of the Program Manager

DATE: May 23, 2024

RE: Program Manager's Report

-
- Town Visits/Meetings/Plan Change Requests
 - Enrollment, Eligibility and Billing
 - New Member Submissions
 - Litigation
 - Aetna – Hospital Contract Negotiations
 - Express – Scripts

TOWN VISITS/MEETINGS/PLAN CHANGE REQUESTS

Our office frequently works with towns for review of plan options for union negotiations. If anyone is entering union negotiations and needs assistance, please feel free to contact our office directly to discuss.

ENROLLMENT, ELIGIBILITY, BILLING

The funds policy is to limit retro corrections, including terminations to 60 days. Please check your monthly invoice for accuracy. If you find a discrepancy, please report it immediately to the NJHIF enrollment Team at northernnjenrollments@permainc.com

Use of the WEX (formerly Benefits Express) enrollment system is mandatory.

Online Enrollment System Training Schedule – 2024

UPDATE NOTICE FOR ALL WEX USERS: There has been a new update to the WEX system that could affect your member termination process, where the "Quick Term" option has been removed. To accommodate this change, we have provided updated termination instructions attached separately for your reference. Going forward, please review these instructions and follow the updated process when terminating a member. Afterward, you can access the quick look feature to confirm coverage is ending on the desired date. You can also reach out to the enrollment team if you need assistance.

PERMA offers virtual training and a refresher class of the online enrollment system the third Wednesday of each month. The session provides an overview of the Fund's enrollment system and shows HR users how to perform tasks in the system. To gain access to the Fund's enrollment system, each HR user must complete a system access form.

Wednesday - June 19th 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday - July 17th 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday - August 21st 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday - September 18th 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday - October 16th 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday - November 20th 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Please email Austin Flinn at PERMA to join a training session.

In the subject line of the email, please include ***Training - Fund Name and Client Name***. Please be sure to add the date of the training you would like to attend to your email so an invite can be sent.

Email: HIFTraining@permainc.com

I have also attached an updated enrollment team contact list for your reference.

NEW MEMBER SUBMISSION

The Operations Committee met on May 15th to discuss and approved membership for the Twp of Mendham.

The Twp of Mendham is currently receiving their benefits through the SHBP. They have expressed an interest in becoming a member of the NJMEBF. We will be duplicating the plans from the SHBP for which there is current enrollment and adding two additional plans, the NJ Direct 2035 and the HDHP 3000. The actuary has added a 5% margin.

- ◆ **Size – 24 Actives**
- ◆ **Current type of plan(s) – NJ Direct 10; NJ Direct 2035, HDHP 3000**
- ◆ **Commitment to JIF philosophy and Active Participation in the Fund**
- ◆ **Mendham Age/Sex Factor – 1.1115**
- ◆ **Fund Average Age/Sex Factor – 1.2676**
- ◆ **Relativity – 0.8768**

<i>Resolution 24-19 approves the offer of membership proposal to the Township of Mendham</i>

LITIGATION

Our office has been and continues to work directly with the fund attorney to provide assistance in research and discussion regarding complaints received for OON reimbursements.

AETNA

New Jersey - Northern Aetna network - Negotiations with Hackensack Meridian Health for a July 01, 2024, effective date.

Aetna's notice of possible termination is listed below:

Aetna's contract with Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH) Hospitals Corporation is set to expire July 1, 2024. While both Parties continue to negotiate to avoid potential disruption, we remain far apart on the terms of the agreement.

Hackensack Meridian Health is a not-for-profit hospital system located in Ocean, Monmouth, Middlesex, Bergen, Essex, Somerset, and Hudson Counties. They are licensed acute care facilities that provide a full range of both Inpatient and Outpatient services.

There will not be an adequacy issue because of the termination.

Due to differing requirements on when we need to notify members, letters will mail in a staggered approach.

In conjunction with the hospital expiration date, the following HMH providers; Physicians, Rehabilitation Hospitals, Behavioral Health Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, Urgent Care, Orthotics and Prosthetics, Durable Medical Equipment, Diagnostic Imaging and Radiology, Ambulance, Laboratory, Home Health Care, Hospice, Infusion, Ambulatory Surgery Centers will also terminate effective 7/1/24.

Member Claims Utilization

117 NJHIF Aetna plan enrollees have utilized this hospital and/or physicians between 04/01/2023 and 03/31/2024.

A separate global email notification has been sent from our office to our groups / brokers which includes a listing of hospitals and physicians affected by this termination along with an alternate hospital listing.

We will continue to keep you updated on negotiations.

UPDATE: New York Presbyterian Healthcare System – Possible Termination

Aetna reached an agreement with New York - Presbyterian Healthcare System effective April 01, 2024, that will keep New York-Presbyterian's physicians and hospitals in Aetna's network.

This means the high-quality care provided by New York - Presbyterian Hospitals and New York - Presbyterian Medical Group clinical practices will continue to be covered as in-network with no interruption to patient care.

There has been no interruption to member access because an agreement was reached before the contract's termination date.

Aetna should have sent notice letters to Medicare and commercial members; therefore, member retraction letters will be released as soon as possible.

EXPRESS – SCRIPTS

ENCIRCLE RX PROGRAM – GLP-1 DRUGS

On May 1st, the Operations Committee met with fund professionals and Express- Scripts to discuss a new program, Encircle RX to better manage the increasing demand and costs for GLP1 drugs for both weight loss and diabetes. The Operations Committee is recommending approval of this program. Further presentation will be provided by ESI during the meeting. Proposed effective date of Program is 9/1/2024.

The Encircle Program establishes specific criteria that must be met for the approval of a GLP1 drug being prescribed for weight loss such as BMI and enrollment in a lifestyle modification program.

Members who are approved for weight loss medications must meet the following criteria:

- BMI > 32 **OR**
- BMI between 27 < 32 **WITH** 2 or more documented comorbidities

In addition to receiving an approved prior authorization (PA), mandatory guidelines of the program are as follows:

- Members will receive a welcome kit from Omada free of charge. The kit includes a digital scale and information on downloading the mobile app and/or using the web browser. The scale is Pre-programmed to the member's ESI account prior to delivery. The scale will record each weigh-in by the member

automatically – the member does not need to upload the data into their ESI account. **Members must weigh-in a minimum of 4 times per month.**

- Members must engage with an assigned online Omada coach via a mobile application or web browser a minimum of 4 times per month.
- If members do not adhere to the mandatory requirements of the program; following the month in which they are noncompliant, they will not be able to refill their weight loss medication. Members will be required to complete the missing weigh-ins and / or online coaching engagement(s) in order to refill their medication.
- Members who have a current PA (Prior Authorization) on file will be grandfathered until their PA expires. Upon renewal of their PA, they will have to meet the above BMI requirements and engage in the program in order to obtain approval to continue their weight loss medication.

Members receiving approval will receive the Omada welcome kit and will need to adhere to the Encircle program as outlined above.

Communications will be sent to all impacted members with registration information. Once registered, members will receive an access code to sign up for the Omada Welcome Kit.

PLEASE NOTE: Only those who are due to renew their PA or have recently been approved for a weight loss medication will receive a communication in the mail.

- Any medication being prescribed for diabetes will now require clinical documentation to support the members diagnosis. This may include medical history showing an ICD 10 code specific to diabetes or current lab work providing A1C and Glucose levels.

The Encircle RX Program will be implemented for any new groups joining the NJHIF on 9/1/24 and after.

An overview of the program is also attached separately for your review.

The cost of the program is .75 PMPM for the weight loss portion of the program and .04 PMPM for the Diabetes portion. Based on the funds current 4,400 total lives, the program would run about \$41,712 annually or about \$10,428 for the remainder of 2024 assuming 9/1 implementation date. The NJHIF has a PMF (Pharmacy Management Fund) allowance from ESI of \$9515 that can be used to supplement the cost of the program. The program also guarantees a 3 for 1 savings.

Resolution 24-20 approves the implementation of the Encircle Rx Program with an effective date of September 1, 2024

SAVEON SP PROGRAM

SaveOnSP, your copay assistance benefit administrator, continues to monitor available specialty manufacturer copay assistance programs to optimize your savings opportunity. Drug list modifications for July 1, 2024, ensure alignment with ESI's research and are based on the inclusion of the copay assistance benefit in your pharmacy benefit plan design. These changes have minimal plan participant impact. The updated SaveOn SP drug list is attached separately.

Additions:

- Highlighted in **green** on associated drug list

Removals:

- Highlighted in **red** on associated drug list

Communication plan: SaveOnSP will send notification letters to any impacted plan participants followed by outbound calls.

ESI FORMULARY UPDATES EFFECTIVE 7/1/2024

ESI has issued their list of formulary exclusions to be effective 7/1/2024. There is a total of 5 members impacted by the formulary changes. A copy of the new exclusion list is attached for your reference.

If there is a clinical reason identified by the member's doctor that requires the member to continue taking their current medication, their doctor can request a coverage review by visiting the Express Scripts online portal at esrx.com/PA.

A copy of the ESI exclusion list effective 7/1/2024 is attached for your reference.

Carrier Appeals:

Appeal Number	Appeal Reason	Appeal Results	Date Completed
2024-04-01	Infertility IVF 4 th cycle denial	IRO Medical Review Overturned	May 8 th , 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-19

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
RESOLUTION TO OFFER MEMBERSHIP
BOROUGH OF MENDHAM**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (hereinafter the Fund) is duly constituted as a joint insurance fund and is subject to certain requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law; and;

WHEREAS, the Fund held a Public Meeting on **May 23, 2024** for the purposes of conducting the official business of the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Program Manager, Executive Director and Actuary of the Fund has reviewed the risk, underwriting detail, and actuarial projections for the Twp of Mendham and recommend offers of membership; and

WHEREAS, the Operations Committee has reviewed the new member submissions and has approved membership to the entity contingent upon a fully executed Indemnity and Trust agreement to join the Fund.

BE IT RESOLVED, it has been determined that the admission to membership in the Fund of the above mentioned municipality would be in the best interest of the Fund and the inclusion of the entity in the Fund is consistent with the Fund's By-laws;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund hereby offers membership to the Twp of Mendham for medical and prescription coverage on or before October 1, 2024, contingent upon receipt of the Fund's authorizing resolution to join the Fund and its executed Indemnity and Trust agreement.

ADOPTED: May 23, 2024

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST: _____
SECRETARY

RESOLUTION NO. 24-20

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPRESS SCRIPTS TO IMPLEMENT GLP-1 PRESCRIPTION
PROGRAM FOR ALL PRESCRIPTION MEMBERS**

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (hereinafter the Fund) is duly constituted as a joint insurance fund;

WHEREAS, the Fund held a Public Meeting on **May 23, 2024** for the purposes of conducting the official business of the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Program Manager of the Fund made a recommendation to the Operations Committee to adopt EncircleRX, a GLP-1 prescription drug management program through Express Scripts;

WHEREAS, effective September 1, 2024, members that are prescribed a GLP-1 prescription but not diagnosed with diabetes will participate in the Encircle RX lifestyle modification program, established by the Fund;

WHEREAS, effective September 1, 2024, the Encircle RX program requires members that are prescribed a GLP-1 prescription for diabetes to provide medical documentation to support their diagnosis;

WHEREAS, the members currently with a Prior Authorization for a GLP -1 will not be required to join the program until the Prior Authorization expiration;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund hereby approves the implementation of the Encircle RX GLP-1 management program through Express Scripts effective September 1, 2024 for all new members being prescribed a GLP-1 drug or expiring Prior Authorizations for the above mentioned prescription drug classification.

ADOPTED: May 23, 2024

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST: _____
SECRETARY

Emerging Therapeutics: DrugWatch

April 2024

Pipeline Drugs: A Closer Look

In each issue of DrugWatch, the Emerging Therapeutics Department highlights one traditional and one specialty pipeline product with near-term approval expected.

Traditional Pipeline			
Drug:	RSV Vaccine (mRNA-1345)	Action Date:	May 12, 2024
Manufacturer:	Moderna	Route:	IM
Indication:	Respiratory syncytial virus		
Comments:			
Moderna’s mRNA-1345 is an investigational messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine for the prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)-associated Lower Respiratory Tract Disease (RSV-LRTD) and Acute Respiratory Disease (ARD) in adults aged 60 years or older. In its ConquerRSV study, the trial met its primary efficacy endpoint, demonstrating a vaccine efficacy of 84% in reducing RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease, as defined by two or more symptoms. The FDA is expected to rule on this application on or before May 12, 2024. If approved, it will compete with GSK’s Arexvy and Pfizer’s Abrysvo for the prevention of RSV in this patient population.			
Specialty Pipeline			
Drug:	tovorafenib	Action Date:	Apr. 30, 2024
Manufacturer:	Day One Biopharma	Route:	Oral
Indication:	Glioma		
Comments:			
Day One Biopharmaceuticals’ tovorafenib is a type II pan-RAF kinase inhibitor for the treatment of patients with relapsed or progressive pediatric low grade glioma (pLGG). Approximately 1,200 children are diagnosed with pLGG each year in the U.S. with 70% of patients with this type of brain cancer having B-RAF gene alterations. Tovorafenib is an oral medication that is taken once weekly. A Phase II study found a 67% overall response rate. Novartis’ Mekinist® (trametinib) and Tafinlar® (dabrafenib) are currently approved for use in combination to treat a similar patient population. Approval of tovorafenib is expected by Apr. 30, 2024.			

FDA Action Dates

Products in the table below are currently under FDA review with near-term FDA action dates.

Drug	Manufacturer	Use	S	Action Date
Xlucane (ranibizumab biosimilar)	Xbrane Biopharma	AMD	S	Apr-21
Anktiva (nogapendekin alfa inbakicept)	ImmunityBio	Bladder Cancer	S	Apr-23
Pivya (pivmecillinam)	Utility Therapeutics	Urinary Tract Infection		Apr-24
Beqvez (fidanacogene elaparovect)	Pfizer	Hemophilia B	S	Apr-27
Libervant (diazepam film)	Aquestive	Seizures		Apr-28
Ketarx (ketamine, racemic), IV	PharmaTher	Chronic Pain		Apr-29
Mavorixafor	X4 Pharmaceuticals	WHIM Syndrome	S	Apr-30
tovorafenib	Day One	Glioma	S	Apr-30
Ingrezza Sprinkles (valbenazine)*	Neurocrine	Huntington's Disease	S	Apr-30
Padcev (enfortumab vedotin-ejfy)*	Astellas	Bladder Cancer	S	May-09
RSV vaccine	Moderna	RSV		May-12
Hepilisav-B	Pfizer/Dynavax	Hepatitis B		May-13
TransCon PTH (palopegteriparatide)	Ascendis	Hypoparathyroidism	S	May-14
camrelizumab and rivoceranib	Incyte and Elevar	Hepatocellular Carcinoma	S	May-17
Breyanzi (lisocabtagene maraleucel)*	Bristol Myers Squibb	Follicular Lymphoma/ Mantle Cell Lymphoma	S	May-23 / May-31
pz-cel (prademagene zamikeracel)	Abeona	DEB	S	May-25
Novolog Biosimilar	Sandoz/Gan & Lee	Diabetes		Q2:2024
Uzprovo (ustekinumab biosimilar)	Alvotect/Teva	Psoriasis	S	Q2:2024
Vyalev (foslevodopa/foscarbidopa)	AbbVie	Parkinson's Disease	S	Q2:2024
elafibranor	Ipsen	PBC	S	Jun-10
Kevzara (sarilumab)*	Regeneron /Sanofi	JIA	S	Jun-10
tarlatamab	Amgen	Small Cell Lung Cancer	S	Jun-12
Augtyro (repotrectinib)*	Bristol Myers Squibb	Solid Tumors	S	Jun-15
Firdapse (amifampridine)*	Catalyst	Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome	S	Jun-15
Rytelo (imetelstat)	Geron Corporation	MDS	S	Jun-16
pneumococcal (21-valent) vaccine	Merck	Pneumococcal Vaccine		Jun-17

* = New Indication; "S" = Specialty

AMD=Age-Related Macular Degeneration; DEB=Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa;
JIA=Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis; MDS=Myelodysplastic Syndrome; PBC=Primary Biliary Cholangitis;
RSV=Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Emerging Therapeutics: DrugWatch

April 2024



FDA Updates

Recent New Drug Approvals

Date	Drug	Manufacturer	Use	S
Mar. 22	Opsumet (macitentan / tadalafil)	Janssen	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	S
Mar. 26	Winnevir (sotatercept-cirkl)	Merck	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	S
Mar. 27	Vifiso (vedolizumab)	Otsuka/Akebia	Anemia	S
Mar. 28	Pemgenda (pemivibart)	Iniviyd	COVID-19 Prevention (EUA Issued)	
Mar. 29	Voydysa (danicopan)	AstraZeneca	Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria	S
Apr. 03	Zevtera (ceftolozime), IV	Baxter Pharmaceuticals	Bacterial Infections	
Apr. 04	Rilivan (risperidone DSM)	Labonatorios Farmaceuticos	Schizophrenia	
Apr. 17	Selandi (ustekinumab-aekn)	Alvotech/Teva	Psoriasis	S
Apr. 19	Entyvio SC (vedolizumab)	Takeda	Crohn's Disease	S

"S" = Specialty

Recent First-Time Generic Launches

Date	Drug	Manufacturer	Use	Annual Sales ^A
	N/A			

^A = Million

Patent Expirations: 2024

In 2024, around \$12 billion worth of first-time generics may be released. The table below shows the products losing patent protection in 2024. As always, availability of generic is subject to final FDA approval.

Drug	Manufacturer	Use	Patent Expiration	Annual Sales ^A
Alrex	Bausch & Lomb	Ophth. Anti-Allergic	Generic	\$45
FML	Allergan	Ophth. Anti-Inflammatory	Generic	\$62
Gralise	Depomed	Nerve Pain	Generic	\$100
Emflaza	PTC Therapeutics	Muscular Dystrophies	Generic	\$214
Rectiv	Allergan	Anal fissures	Generic	\$21
Radicava (IV)	Mitsubishi	Muscular Dystrophies	May. 05	\$329
Duavee	Pfizer	Hormonal Supplementation	May. 06	\$16
Saxenda	Novo Nordisk	Weight Loss	Jun. 22	\$1,135
Victoza	Novo Nordisk	Diabetes, Type 2	Jun. 22	\$3,677
Tasligna	Novartis	Cancer	H1:2024	\$1,166
Slynd	Eli Lilly	Contraceptives	Aug. 31	\$166
Sprycel	Bristol-Myers Squibb	Cancer	Sept. 2024	\$2,296
Sustol	Heron	Nausea/Vomiting	Sep. 28	\$16
Prialt	Ellen	Pain	Oct. 01	\$28
Qsymia	Actavis	Weight Loss	Dec. 01	\$42
Byetta	AstraZeneca	Diabetes, Type 2	2024	\$62
Flovent HFA	Gilead/SmithKline	Asthma	2024	\$1,875
Folotyn	Aixos	Cancer	2024	\$36
Galfate	Shire	Short Bowel Syndrome	2024	\$170
Isentress 400mg	Merck	HIV	2024	\$324
Isimpra	R-Pharm	Cancer	2024	\$14
Neupro Patch	UCB Pharma	Parkinson's Disease	2024	\$142
Rayos	Horizon Pharma	Inflammation	2024	\$120
Teflaro	Allergan	Infections	2024	\$171
Ventavis	Actelion	Pulmonary Hypertension	2024	\$10

^A Millions (QVIA sales [2022]); ^B = Settlement Agreement; Pending = Generic approved but launch is pending

"Generic" = Generic available; (AQ) = Authorized product only

"Expired" = no active patents or exclusivities listed in FDA's Orange Book.

IPF = Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

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Emerging Therapeutics: DrugWatch

March 2024

Pipeline Drugs: A Closer Look

In each issue of DrugWatch, the Emerging Therapeutics Department highlights one traditional and one specialty pipeline product with near-term approval expected.

Traditional Pipeline	
Drug: FluMist Quadrivalent	Action Date: Q1:2024
Manufacturer: AstraZeneca	Route: Intranasal
Indication: Influenza vaccine	

Comments:

AstraZeneca's FluMist Quadrivalent is a live attenuated influenza (flu) vaccine administered as a nasal spray. The company is seeking FDA approval to make the vaccine available through an online pharmacy request system, allowing direct shipment to patients in temperature-controlled packages for self-administration. The most effective defense against seasonal influenza is the annual flu vaccine near the start of the flu season. Delivery of the vaccine to a home could provide a convenient option for some patients. If approved, it is anticipated that the vaccine will be available during the 2024/2025 flu season. The FDA is expected to rule on this application during the first quarter of 2024.

Specialty Pipeline	
Drug: fidanacogene elaparovvec	Action Date: Apr. 27, 2024
Manufacturer: Pfizer	Route: IV infusion
Indication: Hemophilia B	

Comments:

Pfizer's fidanacogene elaparovvec is an adeno-associated virus (AAV)-based Factor IX (FIX) gene therapy for the treatment of adult males with moderately severe to severe hemophilia B. There are around 7,500 males in the U.S. with hemophilia B, which is a rare bleeding disorder. A Phase III study found that fidanacogene elaparovvec reduced annualized bleed rates by 71% compared to prophylaxis FIX infusions prior to treatment. CSL Behring's Hemgenix is a FIX gene therapy that was approved in Nov. 2022; it costs around \$3.5 million. Fidanacogene elaparovvec and Hemgenix are administered as a one-time intravenous (IV) infusions. Approval of fidanacogene elaparovvec is expected by Apr. 27, 2024.

FDA Action Dates

Products in the table below are currently under FDA review with near-term FDA action dates.

Drug	Manufacturer	Use	S	Action Date
sotatercept	Merck	PAH	S	Mar-26
Vafseo (vadadustat)	Otsuka/Akebia	Anemia	S	Mar-27
odronextamab	Regeneron	NHL	S	Mar-31
FluMist (influenza vaccine)*	AstraZeneca	Flu Vaccine		Q1:2024
clobetasol 0.05% nanoemulsion	Laboratorios Salvat	Ocular Inflammation		Q1:2024
clotrimazole otic (SVT-15652)	Laboratorios Salvat	Fungal Otitis Externa		Q1:2024
Ixinity (trenonacog alfa)*	Medexus	Hemophilia B		Q1:2024
Jesduvroq (daprodustat)*	GlaxoSmithKline	Anemia	S	Q1:2024
Soliris Biosimilar	Amgen/Daiichi S	PNH	S	Q1:2024
deuruxolitinib (CTP-543)	Sun Pharmaceuticals	Alopecia Areata	S	Mar-Apr.
Humalog Biosimilar	Sandoz/Gan & Lee	Diabetes		Apr-01
Zeftera (ceftobiprole)	Basilea	Skin/Tissue Infections		Apr-03
apomorphine infusion pump	Supernus	Parkinson's Disease		Apr-05
Novolog Biosimilar	Sandoz/Gan & Lee	Diabetes		Apr-14
Uzprovo (Stelara biosimilar)	Alvotect/Teva	Psoriasis	S	Apr-16
Xlucane (ranibizumab biosimilar)	Xbrane Biopharma	AMD		Apr-21
Anktiva (nogapendekin alfa inbakicept)	ImmunityBio	Bladder Cancer	S	Apr-23
Pivya (pivmecillinam)	Utility Therapeutics	Urinary Tract Infection		Apr-24
Beqvez (fidanacogene elaparovvec)	Pfizer	Hemophilia B	S	Apr-27
Libervant (diazepam film)	Aquestive	Seizures		Apr-28
Eylea biosimilar	Celltrion	AMD	S	Apr-29
Ketarx (ketamine, racemic)	PharmaTher	Chronic Pain		Apr-29
mavorixafor	X4 Pharmaceuticals	Whim Syndrome		Apr-30
tovorafenib	Day One	Glioma	S	Apr-30
Ingrezza (valbenazine) granules	Neurocrine	Huntington's Disease	S	Apr-30
RSV vaccine (mRNA-1345)	Moderna	RSV		May-12
Entyvio (vedolizumab)*	Takeda	Crohn's Disease	S	May-13
TransCon PTH (palopegteriparatide)	Ascendis Pharma	Hypoparathyroidism	S	May-14
rivoceranib	Elevor Therapeutics	Hepatocellular Carcinoma	S	May-17

* = New Indication; "S" = Specialty

AMD=Age-Related Macular Degeneration; NHL = Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; PAH=Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension; PNH=Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria; RSV=Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Emerging Therapeutics: DrugWatch

March 2024

FDA Updates

Recent New Drug Approvals

Date	Drug	Manufacturer	Use	S
Feb. 22	Exblifep (cefeprima /enmetazobactam)	Allecra	Urinary Tract Infection	
Feb. 23	Simlandi (edellimumab-nyvk)	Teva /Alvotec	Rheumatoid Arthritis	S
Feb. 29	Letybo (letibotulinumtoxinA)	Hugel America	Glabellar Lines	
Mar. 04	clobetasol 0.05% nanoemulsion	Formosa /AlmMax	Ocular Inflammation/Pain	
Mar. 05	Jubbonti (denosumab-bddz)	Sandoz	Osteoporosis	S
Mar. 05	Wyost (denosumab-bddz)	Sandoz	Cancer	S
Mar. 05	Tyenne (tocilizumab-wag)	Fresenius Kabi/ Merck KGaA	Rheumatoid Arthritis	S
Mar. 13	Tevimbra (tislelizumab)	BeiGene	Esophageal Cancer	S
Mar. 14	ReadiPro (resmetirom)	Madrigal	Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)	S
Mar. 18	Lenmeldy (etidenagene autotemcel)	Orchard	Metachromatic Leukodystrophy	S
Mar. 19	Tynyo (aproclentan)	Janssen/Jansco	Hypertension	
Mar. 21	Dunyst (glynostet)	Italfarmaco	Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	S

"S" = Specialty

Recent Generic Launches

Date	Drug	Manufacturer	Use	Annual Sales ^A
Feb. 22	Rectiv	Forest	Anal Fissure	\$21

^A = Million

Patent Expirations: 2024

In 2024, around \$12 billion worth of first-time generics may be released. The table below shows the products losing patent protection in 2024. As always, availability of generic is subject to final FDA approval.

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Radicara (IV)	Mitsubishi	Muscular Dystrophies	May. 05	\$329
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Slynd	Ecoth	Contraceptives	Aug. 21	\$166
Sprycel	Bristol-Myers Squibb	Cancer	Sept. 2024	\$2,296
Sustol	Hicon	Nausea/Vomiting	Sep. 28	\$16
Prilek	Elen	Pain	Oct. 01	\$28
Qsymia	Actavis	Weight Loss	Dec. 01	\$42
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Folotyn	Allos	Cancer	2024	\$36
Gettes	Shire	Short Bowel Syndrome	2024	\$170
Isentress 400mg	Merck	HIV	2024	\$324
Isompra	B-Pharm	Cancer	2024	\$14
Neupro Patch	UCB Pharma	Parkinson's Disease	2024	\$142
Rayos	Horizon Pharma	Inflammation	2024	\$120
Teflaro	Allergan	Infections	2024	\$171
Ventavis	Actellon	Pulmonary Hypertension	2024	\$10

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IPF = Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

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NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

BILLS LIST

Resolution No.

APRIL 2024

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funding is available to pay the following bills:

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefit Fund's Executive Board,
hereby
authorizes the Fund treasurer to issue warrants in payment of the following claims; and

FURTHER, that this authorization shall be made a permanent part of the records of the Fund.

FUND YEAR 2024

<u>CheckNumber</u>	<u>VendorName</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>InvoiceAmount</u>
002823			
002823	AETNA HEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PREMIUM 04/24	285,522.69
			285,522.69
002824			
002824	UNITED - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PREMIUM 04/24	47,021.52
			47,021.52
002825			
002825	DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY INC	DENTAL TPA 04/24	6,579.80
			6,579.80
002826			
002826	AETNA	MEDICAL TPA 04/24	90,862.92
			90,862.92
002827			
002827	INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	TWP OF PEQUANNOCK 02/24	3.00
002827	INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	TWP OF PEQUANNOCK 01/24	3.00
002827	INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	TWP. WEST MILFORD 01/24	3.00
002827	INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	TWP. WEST MILFORD 02/24	3.00
			12.00
002828			
002828	PERMA	POSTAGE 03/24	104.91
002828	PERMA	ADMIN FEES 04/24	47,960.00
			48,064.91
002829			
002829	ACTUARIAL SOLUTIONS, LLC	ACTUARY FEES Q2 2024	3,185.00
			3,185.00
002830			
002830	MICHAEL J. SOCCIO	TREASURER FEE 04/24	1,953.00
			1,953.00
002831			

002831	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	WELLNESS 04/24	3,403.44
002831	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	PROGRAM MANAGER FEES 04/24	52,132.00
002831	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS 04/24	4,790.44
002831	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	BROKER FEES 04/24	30,482.12
002831	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	SET UP FEE- MOUNT OLIVE 04/24	4,140.00
			94,948.00
002832			
002832	DORSEY & SEMRAU	SPECIAL LITIGATION INV 21165 03/24	3,100.00
002832	DORSEY & SEMRAU	ATTORNEY RETAINER FEE 04/24	1,667.00
			4,767.00
002833			
002833	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONSULTING	BROKER FEES 04/24	2,418.48
			2,418.48
002834			
002834	CORPORATE BENEFIT SOLUTIONS	BROKER FEES 04/24	2,226.11
			2,226.11
002835			
002835	SKYLANDS RISK MANAGEMENT	BROKER FEES 04/24	10,143.33
			10,143.33
002836			
002836	BROWN AND BROWN METRO LLC	BROKER FEES 04/24	6,876.50
			6,876.50
002837			
002837	CIVITAS NEW JERSEY, LLC	WELLNESS CONSULT SERVICES 04/24	2,083.33
			2,083.33
002838			
002838	WORLD INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, LLC	BROKER FEES 04/24	1,257.13
			1,257.13
002839			
002839	ACRISURE, LLC	BROKER FEES 04/24	10,239.17
			10,239.17
002840			
002840	CONNER STRONG & BUCKELEW	SEL. INS- SURETY BOND RENEWAL 24-25	2,269.00
			2,269.00
002841			
002841	NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	A # XNJER0555972-AD 10843180 3/20/24	173.40
002841	NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	A # XNJER0555972- AD 10833422 2/28/24	151.60
002841	NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	A # XNJER0555972 -AD 10843176 3/20/24	63.64
			388.64
002842			
002842	GANNETT NEW YORK NJ LOCALIQ	A# 1184295 INV 6305390- 9967037 3/20/24	82.80
			82.80
002843			
002843	ACCESS	INV 10752127 DEPT 421 2/29/24	179.74
			179.74
002844			
002844	MUNICIPAL REINSURANCE H.I.F.	SPECIFIC REINSURANCE 04/24	382,739.26
			382,739.26
		Total Payments FY 2024	1,003,820.33
		TOTAL PAYMENTS ALL FUND YEARS	1,003,820.33

Chairperson

Attest:

Dated:

I hereby certify the availability of sufficient unencumbered funds in the proper accounts to fully pay the above claims.

Treasurer

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

BILLS LIST

Resolution No.

MAY 2024

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funding is available to pay the following bills:

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefit Fund's Executive Board,
hereby
authorizes the Fund treasurer to issue warrants in payment of the following claims; and

FURTHER, that this authorization shall be made a permanent part of the records of the Fund.

FUND YEAR 2023

<u>CheckNumber</u>	<u>VendorName</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>InvoiceAmount</u>
002862			
002862	ACCESS	INV 10647878 DEPT MAIN 12/31/23 PERTIAL	3.79
002862	ACCESS	INV 10543143- DEPT MAIN 11/30/23-PARTIAL	60.57
002862	ACCESS	INV 10628540 DEPT MAIN 11/30/23- PARTIAL	3.79
			68.15
		Total Payments FY 2023	68.15

FUND YEAR 2024

<u>CheckNumber</u>	<u>VendorName</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>InvoiceAmount</u>
002845			
002845	AETNA HEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PREMIUM 05/24	263,147.15
			263,147.15
002846			
002846	UNITED - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PREMIUM 05/24	47,530.08
			47,530.08
002847			
002847	DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY INC	DENTAL TPA 05/24	6,492.96
			6,492.96
002848			
002848	AETNA	MEDICAL TPA 05/24	82,599.06
			82,599.06
002849			
002849	INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	TWP OF PEQUANNOCK 03/24	3.00
002849	INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	TWP. WEST MILFORD 03/24	3.00
			6.00
002850			
002850	PERMA	POSTAGE 04/24	39.55
002850	PERMA	ADMIN FEES 05/24	44,374.99
			44,414.54
002851			
002851	MICHAEL J. SOCCIO	TREASURER FEE 05/24	1,953.00
			1,953.00
002852			
002852	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	WELLNESS 05/24	3,411.59
002852	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	PROGRAM MANAGER FEES 05/24	52,162.49
002852	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS 05/24	-20.35
002852	JOSEPH L. VOZZA AGENCY INC.	BROKER FEES 05/24	30,663.66
			86,217.39
002853			
002853	DORSEY & SEMRAU	SPECIAL LITIGATION INV 21257 04/24	4,309.00
002853	DORSEY & SEMRAU	ATTORNEY RETAINER 05/24	1,667.00
			5,976.00
002854			
002854	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONSULTING	BROKER FEES 05/24	2,445.00
			2,445.00

002855			
002855	CORPORATE BENEFIT SOLUTIONS	BROKER FEES 05/24	2,226.11
			2,226.11
002856			
002856	SKYLANDS RISK MANAGEMENT	BROKER FEES 05/24	10,103.46
			10,103.46
002857			
002857	BROWN AND BROWN METRO LLC	BROKER FEES 05/24	6,751.19
			6,751.19
002858			
002858	WORLD INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, LLC	BROKER FEES 05/24	1,144.57
			1,144.57
002859			
002859	ACRISURE, LLC	BROKER FEES 05/24	9,720.77
			9,720.77
002860			
002860	ACCESS	INV 10812527 DEPT 421 03/31/24	174.13
002860	ACCESS	INV 10864929 DEPT 421 4/30/24	179.74
			353.87
002861			
002861	MUNICIPAL REINSURANCE H.I.F.	SPECIFIC REINSURANCE 05/24	363,270.48
			363,270.48
002863			
002863	ACCESS	INV 10700983 DEPT MAIN 1/31/24-PARTIAL	3.58
			3.58
		Total Payments FY 2024	934,355.21
		TOTAL PAYMENTS ALL FUND YEARS	934,423.36

Chairperson

Attest:

Dated:

I hereby certify the availability of sufficient unencumbered funds in the proper accounts to fully pay the above claims.

Treasurer

North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund										
SUMMARY OF CASH TRANSACTIONS - ALL FUND YEARS COMBINED										
Current Fund Year: 2024 Month Ending: March										
	Medical	Dental	Rx	Reinsurance	Dividend Reserve	LFC	Admin	0	0	TOTAL
OPEN BALANCE	11,915,692.05	269,723.93	196,812.17	(81,194.56)	2,538,696.56	0.00	(684,887.58)	0.00	0.00	14,154,842.57
RECEIPTS										
Assessments	3,890,026.77	106,518.14	214,688.59	295,484.99	0.00	0.00	262,285.11	0.00	0.00	4,769,003.60
Refunds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Invest Pymnts	45,108.94	955.39	2,889.52	205.38	8,992.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58,151.59
Invest Adj	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Invest	45,108.94	955.39	2,889.52	205.38	8,992.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58,151.59
Other *	122,822.29	432.08	216,536.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	184,783.60	0.00	0.00	524,574.64
TOTAL	4,057,958.00	107,905.61	434,114.78	295,690.37	8,992.36	0.00	447,068.71	0.00	0.00	5,351,729.83
EXPENSES										
Claims Transfers	3,565,036.09	141,068.51	339,227.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,045,332.07
Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	339,565.92	0.00	0.00	531,097.59	0.00	0.00	870,663.51
Other *	20,833.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,833.33
TOTAL	3,585,869.42	141,068.51	339,227.47	339,565.92	0.00	0.00	531,097.59	0.00	0.00	4,936,828.91
END BALANCE	12,387,780.63	236,561.03	291,699.48	(125,070.11)	2,547,688.92	0.00	(768,916.46)	0.00	0.00	14,569,743.49

CERTIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION OF CLAIMS PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES									
North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund									
Month		March							
Current Fund Year		2024							
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Policy Year	Coverage	Calc. Net Paid Thru Last Month	Monthly Net Paid March	Monthly Recoveries March	Calc. Net Paid Thru March	TPA Net Paid Thru March	Variance To Be Reconciled	Delinquent Unreconciled Variance From	Change This Month
2024	Medical	4,867,090.86	3,215,308.97	0.00	8,082,399.83	0.00	8,082,399.83	4,867,090.86	3,215,308.97
	Dental	191,588.18	136,647.35	0.00	328,235.53	0.00	328,235.53	191,588.18	136,647.35
	Rx	596,436.60	339,662.71	0.00	936,099.31	0.00	936,099.31	596,436.60	339,662.71
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	5,655,115.64	3,691,619.03	0.00	9,346,734.67	0.00	9,346,734.67	5,655,115.64	3,691,619.03
2023	Medical	3,802,659.92	343,056.52	0.00	4,145,716.44	0.00	4,145,716.44	3,802,659.92	343,056.52
	Dental	72,809.01	4,421.16	0.00	77,230.17	0.00	77,230.17	72,809.01	4,421.16
	Rx	154,788.39	(435.24)	0.00	154,353.15	0.00	154,353.15	154,788.39	(435.24)
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	4,030,257.32	347,042.44	0.00	4,377,299.76	0.00	4,377,299.76	4,030,257.32	347,042.44
2022	Medical	46,198.42	1,923.17	0.00	48,121.59	0.00	48,121.59	46,198.42	1,923.17
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	46,198.42	1,923.17	0.00	48,121.59	0.00	48,121.59	46,198.42	1,923.17
2021	Medical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Closed Year	Medical	7,825.63	4,747.43	0.00	12,573.06	0.00	12,573.06	7,825.63	4,747.43
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	7,825.63	4,747.43	0.00	12,573.06	0.00	12,573.06	7,825.63	4,747.43

SUMMARY OF CASH AND INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS							
North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund							
ALL FUND YEARS COMBINED							
CURRENT MONTH	March		53572.44				
CURRENT FUND YEAR	2024						
Description:		CASH MANAGEMENT FUND	TD BANK ASSET MANAGEMENT	TD Bank Gift Card Account	Investors Bank	CITIZENS	
ID Number:							
Maturity (Yrs)							
Purchase Yield:							
TOTAL for All Accts & instruments							
Opening Cash & Investment Balance	\$ 14,154,842.43	\$ 3,197,093.09	\$ 7,408,538.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,549,210.88	
Opening Interest Accrual Balance	\$ 30,655.82	\$ -	\$ 30,655.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1 Interest Accrued and/or Interest Cost	\$2,207.81	\$0.00	\$2,207.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2 Interest Accrued - discounted Instr.s	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3 (Amortization and/or Interest Cost)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
4 Accretion	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
5 Interest Paid - Cash Instr.s	\$58,151.60	\$14,377.12	\$30,655.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,118.66	
6 Interest Paid - Term Instr.s	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
7 Realized Gain (Loss)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
8 Net Investment Income	\$60,359.41	\$14,377.12	\$32,863.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,118.66	
9 Deposits - Purchases	\$5,272,744.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,272,744.91	
10 (Withdrawals - Sales)	-\$4,915,995.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$4,915,995.58	
Ending Cash & Investment Balance	\$14,569,743.36	\$3,211,470.21	\$7,439,194.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,919,078.87	
Ending Interest Accrual Balance	\$32,863.63	\$0.00	\$32,863.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Plus Outstanding Checks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
(Less Deposits in Transit)	-\$1,043,933.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,043,933.26	
Balance per Bank	\$13,525,810.10	\$3,211,470.21	\$7,439,194.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,875,145.61	

RESOLUTION NO. 24-22

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
APPROVAL OF THE APRIL AND MAY 2024 BILLS LISTS**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund held a Public Meeting on **May 23, 2024** the purposes of conducting the official business of the Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Treasurer for the Fund presented bills lists to satisfy outstanding costs incurred for operating the Fund during the months April and May 2024 for consideration and approval of the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Treasurer for the Fund presented a Treasurers Report which detailed the claims payments and imprest transfers for the Fund for the Month of March for all Fund Years for consideration and approval of the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the Executive Committee was present thereby conforming with the By-laws of the Fund to conduct official business of the Fund,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners of the Executive Committee of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund hereby approve the Bills List for April and May 2024 prepared by the Treasurer of the Fund and duly authorize and concur said bills to be paid expeditiously, in accordance with the laws and regulations promulgated by the State of New Jersey for Municipal Health Insurance Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commissioners of the Executive Committee of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund hereby approve the Treasurers Report as furnished by the Treasurer of the Fund and concur with actions undertaken by the Treasurer, in accordance with the laws and regulations promulgated by the State of New Jersey for Municipal Health Insurance Funds.

ADOPTED: May 23, 2024

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

DORSEY & SEMRAU

FRED SEMRAU*
DAWN M. SULLIVAN**
SUSAN C. SHARPE**
ROBERT ROSSMEISL**
EDWARD PASTERNAK**
JONATHAN TESTA**
KYLE FISHER
NICHOLAS WALL
*PARTNER
** SENIOR ASSOCIATE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
714 MAIN STREET
BOONTON, NJ 07005
973-334-1900
FACSIMILE 973-334-3408

IN MEMORIAM:
JOHN H. DORSEY
(1937-2018)

Memorandum Privileged and Confidential

To: NJMEBF Claims Committee

From: Fred Semrau, Esq.
Ed Pasternak, Esq.

Date: 3/22/24

Re: Settlement Recommendation for Pre-Litigation Demands “CS”

Kindly accept this Settlement Recommendation on the above noted matter.

I. The Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that the Fund grant our firm authority to offer up to an additional \$9,000, in careful consideration of the pre-litigation settlement offer on the above captioned matter and pursuant to NJ Rule 408. This matter concerns a “denial of procedures” from a carpal tunnel surgery, and the out of network (“OON”) reimbursement provided. In sum, the provider billed \$15,991, and a demand of \$15,000 has been made by counsel. This Pre-Litigation offer to settle has been made without any complaint filed.

II. Background and Procedural History:

Patient “CS” is a covered plan member. On December 18, 2019 “CS” underwent carpal tunnel surgery with Dr. DeNoble at Modern Orthopedic. Thereafter, Dr. DeNoble submitted charges of \$15,991, for which the Fund paid \$874.

Upon our review of this record, we would recommend tendering the above settlement offer without further delay.

III. Analysis:

Based upon this record, we would recommend paying up to an additional \$9,000 to

settle the matter. Here, settling the claim for this figure would be a positive resolution of this matter for the Fund.

Importantly, the plan language applicable to this member was last updated in October 2017. As such, it is our recommendation that the Fund should offer some reasonable portion of the submitted demand. As previously advised on other OON matters subject to the terms of “non-updated” plan language, should this matter move to formal litigation, a Court would likely apply a test of “usual, customary and reasonable” and by such operation, create a much larger exposure to the Fund than the recommended settlement figure.

Lastly, we would not recommend hiring an independent expert to opine on the value of this surgery as being cost prohibitive, based on the likely range of settlement.

IV. Conclusion

In consideration of this specific record, we would recommend the Fund grant us authority to offer up to \$9,000.00 to settle this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

DORSEY & SEMRAU

FRED SEMRAU*
DAWN M. SULLIVAN**
SUSAN C. SHARPE**
ROBERT ROSSMEISL**
EDWARD PASTERNAK**
JONATHAN TESTA**
KYLE FISHER
NICHOLAS WALL
*PARTNER
** SENIOR ASSOCIATE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
714 MAIN STREET
BOONTON, NJ 07005
973-334-1900
FACSIMILE 973-334-3408

IN MEMORIAM:
JOHN H. DORSEY
(1937-2018)

Memorandum Privileged and Confidential

To: NJMEBF Claims Committee

From: Fred Semrau, Esq.
Ed Pasternak, Esq.

Date: 3/22/24

Re: Settlement Recommendation for Pre-Litigation Demands “MB”

Kindly accept this Settlement Recommendation on the above noted matter.

V. The Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that the Fund grant our firm authority to offer up to \$5,000 to resolve the pre-litigation settlement offer on the above captioned matter pursuant to NJ Rule 408, and in the alternative, to otherwise reject the offer.

Here, covered plan member MB had an emergency surgery. However, and after further investigation, pursuant to an authorization letter from Aetna, the medical provider was a participating in-network provider (“INN”) at the time the services were rendered. As such, the payment issued was correct. By way of further background, while an explanation of benefits did--at one point--state that the facility was out of network (“OON”), as a practical matter and by way of any putative defense should litigation be filed, if the provider had any objections with the payment made, they should have contacted Aetna’s provider relations department to discuss. In sum, the medical provider has exhausted all appeals, and again the claim documentation indicates that the claim was paid correctly at the highest INN benefit level.

VI. Background and Procedural History:

The patient here is the spouse of “MB” a covered employee of a Fund member. On August 16, 2021, the patient presented to the Emergency Department of Lower Bucks (PA) Hospital. On this matter, no formal complaint has been filed, and the Plaintiff is represented by the Callagy Law Firm. The allegations are that the hospital was underpaid by the Fund as an OON provider. The Fund has already paid \$11,853 to the hospital, and again, Callagy Law has tendered a demand for \$37,000 against the \$52,681 invoiced for the services rendered.

Based upon this record, the payment issued to provider was correct.

VII. Analysis:

In sum, and based on this record, we would suggest only paying nuisance value to settle this matter.

VIII. Conclusion

In consideration of this specific record evidencing an emergency surgery, we would recommend the Fund grant us authority to offer up to \$5,000 to settle this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT FUND RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE
SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS**

WHEREAS, there was a dispute as to two claims paid by the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (hereinafter “the Fund”), both resulting from out-of-network services provided to its members; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Sponsor previously issued payment for the first claim; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, a pre-litigation demand was submitted by counsel, alleging violations of law, and demanding the sum in excess of such payment to resolve and settle this matter, which involved the member’s out-of-network surgery; and

WHEREAS, the parties to the dispute have since reached a settlement to amicably resolve the matter, resulting in a settlement agreement which dismisses the matter with prejudice, by an additional payment of \$3,500 to the out-of-network service provider; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Sponsor previously issued payment for the second claim; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, a pre-litigation demand was submitted by counsel, alleging violations of law, and demanding the sum in excess of such payment to resolve and settle this matter, which involved the member’s out-of-network surgery; and

WHEREAS, the parties to the dispute have since reached a settlement to amicably resolve the matter, resulting in a settlement agreement which dismisses the matter with prejudice, by payment of an additional payment of \$7,100 to the out-of-network service provider; and

WHEREAS, both matters were reviewed by the Fund’s legal counsel, and were thereafter considered by the Fund’s Claims Committee which recommended each settlement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund that the proposed settlement in the amounts of \$3,500.00 and \$7,100 be approved by way of such agreement, directing reprocessing of the claims so as to provide an additional \$3,500.00 to the “Trust Account of Callagy Law, P.C.” and mailed to Callagy Law, P.C. Mac-Cali Centre II, From Road, Suite 565, Paramus NJ 07652, and an additional \$7,100 to the “Trust Account of Cohen Howard, LLP” and mailed to Cohen Howard, LLP 766 Shrewsbury Avenue, Suite 200, Tinton Falls NJ 07724, for such out-of-network services rendered.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED: MAY 23, 2024

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST: _____
SECRETARY



**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND**

Monthly Claim Activity Report

May 23, 2024



NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

	MEDICAL CLAIMS PAID 2022	# OF EES	PER EE	MEDICAL CLAIMS PAID 2023	# OF EES	PER EE
JANUARY	\$2,295,816	1,496	\$ 1,535	\$3,931,217	1,920	\$ 2,048
FEBRUARY	\$2,276,872	1,502	\$ 1,516	\$3,769,432	1,881	\$ 2,004
MARCH	\$2,379,988	1,503	\$ 1,583	\$2,964,735	2,084	\$ 1,423
APRIL	\$2,612,511	1,605	\$ 1,628			
MAY	\$3,090,950	1,668	\$ 1,853			
JUNE	\$3,170,703	1,662	\$ 1,908			
JULY	\$2,465,662	1,669	\$ 1,477			
AUGUST	\$3,717,731	1,719	\$ 2,163			
SEPTEMBER	\$2,976,764	1,836	\$ 1,621			
OCTOBER	\$3,092,101	1,865	\$ 1,658			
NOVEMBER	\$2,906,862	1,866	\$ 1,558			
DECEMBER	\$3,142,985	1,880	\$ 1,672			
TOTALS	\$34,128,946			\$10,665,384		
				2024 Average	1,962	\$1,825

Large Claimant Report (Drilldown) - Claims Over \$100000

Plan Sponsor Unique ID : All
Customer: North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund
Group / Control: 00727848,00866355,SI220763

Paid Dates: 02/01/2024 - 02/29/2024
Service Dates: 01/01/2011 - 02/29/2024
Line of Business: All

Paid Amt

\$199,783.46

Total:

\$199,783.46

Large Claimant Report (Drilldown) - Claims Over \$100000

Plan Sponsor Unique ID : All
Customer: North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund
Group / Control: 00727848,00866355,SI220763

Paid Dates: 03/01/2024 - 03/31/2024
Service Dates: 01/01/2011 - 03/31/2024
Line of Business: All

Paid Amt

\$159,387.48

Total:

\$159,387.48

**Medical Claims Paid:
January 2024- March 2024**

Total Medical Paid per EE: \$1,825

Network Discounts

Inpatient: 67.1%
Ambulatory: 69.3%
Physician/Other: 68.0%
TOTAL: 68.2%

Provider Network

% Admissions In-Network: 96.5%
% Physician Office: 91.6%

Aetna Book of Business:
Admissions 98.5%; Physician 90.8%

**Top Facilities Utilized (by total
Medical Spend)**

- Morristown Medical Center
- Chilton Medical Center
- Saint Clare's Hospital
- Hackensack University Medical
- Cooperman Barnabas Medical

**Catastrophic Claim Impact
January 2024- March 2024**

Number of Claims Over \$50,000: 32
Claimants per 1000 members: 6.4
Avg. Paid per Claimant: \$98,635
Percent of Total Paid: 31.4%
• Aetna BOB- HCC account for an average of 43.1% of total Medical Cost

**Aetna One Flex Member Outreach:
thru March 2024**

Total Members Identified: 1,059
Members Targeted for 1:1 Nurse Support : 207
Members Targeted for digital activity: 852
Member 1:1 outreach completed: 200
Member 1:1 Outreach in Progress: 7

**Teladoc Activity:
January 2024 thru March 2024**

Total Registrations: 29
Total Online Visits: 288
Total Net Claims Savings: \$41,906
Total Visits w/ Rx: 71

Mental Health Visits: 9
Dermatology Visits: 2

**Service Center Performance Goal
Metrics YTD 2024****Customer Service Performance**

1st Call Resolution: 94.03%
Abandonment Rate: 0.80%
Avg. Speed of Answer: 27.2 sec

Claims Performance

Financial Accuracy: 98.25%*
*Q4 2023

90% processed w/in: 6.9 days
95% processed w/in: 12.5 days

**Claims Performance (Monthly)
(March 2024)**

90% processed w/in: 5.8 days
95% processed w/in: 8.5 days
(Note: This is not a PG metric)

Performance Goals

1st Call Resolution: 90%
Abandonment Rate less than: 3.0%
Average Speed of Answer: 30 sec

Financial Accuracy: 99%

Turnaround Time

90% processed w/in: 14 days
95% processed w/in: 30 days



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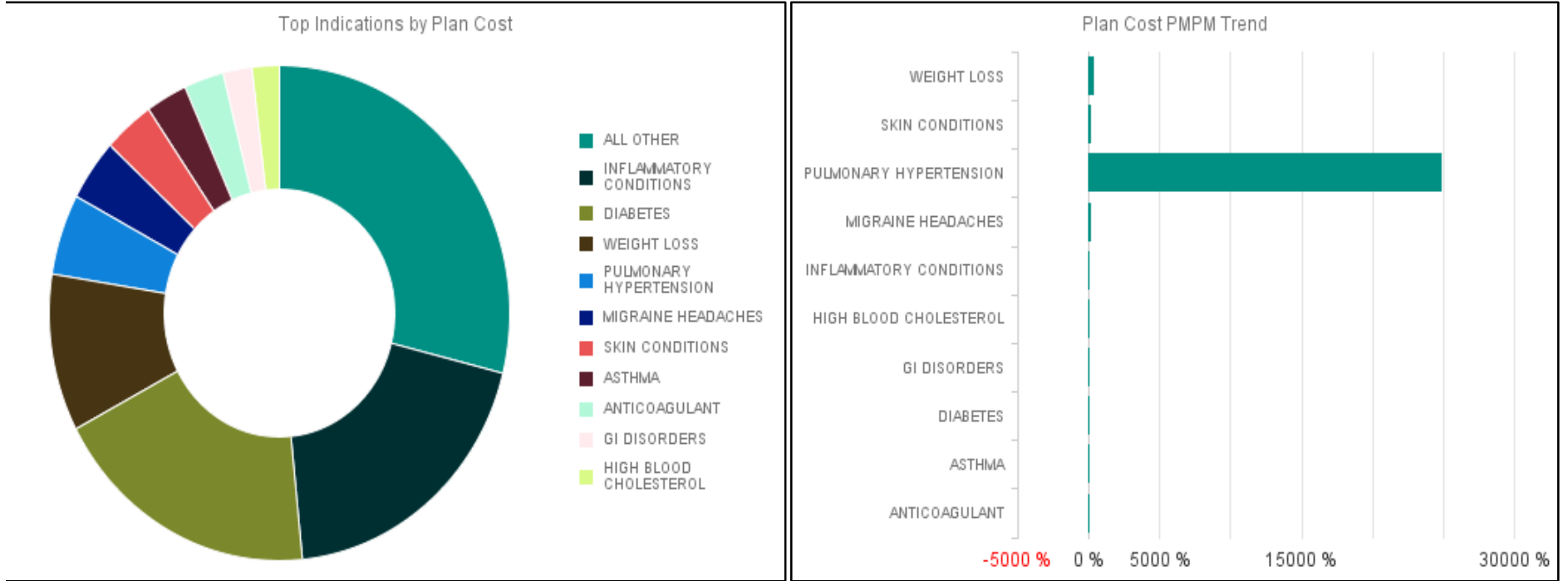
North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund - Monthly Utilization Tracking Report

Total Component/Date of Service (Month)	2023 01	2023 02	2023 03	2023 Q1	2023 04	2023 05	2023 06	2023 Q2	2023 07	2023 08	2023 09	2023 Q3	2023 10	2023 11	2023 12	2023 Q4	2023 YTD
Membership	3,873	3,863	3,887	3,874	4,143	4,320	4,331	4,265	4,342	4,485	4,817	4,548	4,889	4,905	4,919	4,904	4,398
Total Days	153,428	137,350	155,285	446,063	150,154	171,679	168,062	489,895	167,616	182,884	176,070	526,570	193,309	185,189	190,970	569,468	2,031,996
Total Patients	1,550	1,471	1,557	2,318	1,557	1,713	1,694	2,577	1,661	1,720	1,812	2,735	2,001	1,918	2,032	3,017	3,942
Total Plan Cost	\$548,171	\$576,692	\$662,404	\$1,787,268	\$584,221	\$747,892	\$850,782	\$2,182,895	\$810,505	\$893,758	\$835,235	\$2,539,498	\$906,849	\$926,193	\$976,059	\$2,809,101	\$9,318,762
Generic Fill Rate (GFR) - Total	83.3%	84.4%	84.9%	84.2%	85.6%	86.8%	85.0%	85.8%	85.2%	85.5%	83.4%	84.7%	81.7%	84.7%	86.4%	84.3%	84.7%
Plan Cost PMPM	\$141.54	\$149.29	\$170.42	\$153.77	\$141.01	\$173.12	\$196.44	\$170.62	\$186.67	\$199.28	\$173.39	\$186.13	\$185.49	\$188.83	\$198.43	\$190.93	\$176.58
Total Specialty Plan Cost	\$192,512	\$223,063	\$248,701	\$664,276	\$205,135	\$301,686	\$387,694	\$894,515	\$354,876	\$383,566	\$325,876	\$1,064,318	\$352,165	\$397,833	\$435,410	\$1,185,408	\$3,808,517
Specialty % of Total Specialty Plan Cost	35.1%	38.7%	37.5%	37.2%	35.1%	40.3%	45.6%	41.0%	43.8%	42.9%	39.0%	41.9%	38.8%	43.0%	44.6%	42.2%	40.9%

Total Component/Date of Service (Month)	2024 01	2024 02	2024 03	2024 Q1	2024 04	2024 05	2024 06	2024 Q2	2024 07	2024 08	2024 09	2024 Q3	2024 10	2024 11	2024 12	2024 Q4	2024 YTD
Membership	4,905	4,873	5,422	5,067													
Total Days	203,099	186,419	209,585	599,103													
Total Patients	1,969	1,908	2,196	3,206													
Total Plan Cost	\$865,144	\$792,475	\$1,082,856	\$2,740,474													
Generic Fill Rate (GFR) - Total	86.0%	87.0%	86.4%	86.5%													
Plan Cost PMPM	\$176.38	\$162.63	\$199.72	\$180.29													
% Change Plan Cost PMPM	24.6%	8.9%	17.2%	17.2%													
Total Specialty Plan Cost	\$308,439	\$274,926	\$466,338	\$1,049,702													
Specialty % of Total Specialty Plan Cost	35.7%	34.7%	43.1%	38.3%													

Top Indications

N. JERSEY MUNI EMPLOY BNFT FD (Current Period 01/2024 - 03/2024 vs. Previous Period 01/2023 - 03/2023) Peer = Government - National Preferred Formulary



			Current Period						Previous Period						Trend
Rank	Peer Rank	Indication	Market Share	Adjusted Rx	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	GFR	Peer GFR	Market Share	Adjusted Rx	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	GFR	Peer GFR	Plan Cost PMPM
1	2	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	27.4 %	158	\$534,505	\$35.16	36.7 %	36.6 %	30.2 %	115	\$305,197	\$26.26	43.5 %	40.0 %	33.9 %
2	1	DIABETES	26.5 %	1,773	\$516,190	\$33.96	33.5 %	26.3 %	35.5 %	1,243	\$358,622	\$30.85	33.5 %	29.5 %	10.1 %
3	3	WEIGHT LOSS	14.5 %	281	\$281,561	\$18.52	5.0 %	5.5 %	5.0 %	60	\$50,886	\$4.38	18.3 %	12.6 %	323.1 %
4	10	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	7.4 %	8	\$144,548	\$9.51	25.0 %	57.7 %	0.0 %	2	\$445	\$0.04	100.0 %	53.5 %	24758.8 %
5	5	MIGRAINE HEADACHES	5.7 %	175	\$110,612	\$7.28	39.4 %	52.8 %	5.3 %	108	\$53,389	\$4.59	44.4 %	56.6 %	58.4 %
6	4	SKIN CONDITIONS	5.0 %	235	\$96,989	\$6.38	81.3 %	86.5 %	3.8 %	174	\$38,669	\$3.33	89.1 %	88.1 %	91.8 %
7	6	ASTHMA	4.1 %	788	\$79,381	\$5.22	83.8 %	88.1 %	6.8 %	622	\$69,037	\$5.94	76.0 %	79.0 %	-12.1 %
8	7	ANTICOAGULANT	3.9 %	172	\$76,081	\$5.01	12.2 %	19.5 %	5.4 %	142	\$54,400	\$4.68	18.3 %	22.2 %	6.9 %
9	8	GI DISORDERS	2.9 %	113	\$55,755	\$3.67	49.6 %	57.0 %	3.7 %	85	\$37,076	\$3.19	41.2 %	59.4 %	15.0 %
10	9	HIGH BLOOD CHOLESTEROL	2.7 %	2,175	\$52,694	\$3.47	97.4 %	97.4 %	4.2 %	1,639	\$42,647	\$3.67	95.9 %	97.2 %	-5.5 %
Total Top 10				5,878	\$1,948,316	\$128.18	64.4 %	59.2 %		4,190	\$1,010,368	\$86.93	66.5 %	60.8 %	47.5 %

Top Drugs

N. JERSEY MUNI EMPLOY BNFT FD (Current Period 01/2024 - 03/2024 vs. Previous Period 01/2023 - 03/2023) Peer = Government - National Preferred Formulary

					Current Period				Previous Period				Trend
Rank	Peer Rank	Brand Name	Indication	Specialty Drug	Adjusted Rxs	Patients	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	Adjusted Rxs	Patients	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	Plan Cost PMPM
1	14	WEGOVY	WEIGHT LOSS	N	148	59	\$174,456	\$11.48	35	16	\$39,747	\$3.42	235.6 %
2	6	STELARA	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	19	6	\$160,500	\$10.56	6	3	\$54,962	\$4.73	123.3 %
3	164	TYVASO DPI	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	Y	6	1	\$144,104	\$9.48	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	2	OZEMPIC	DIABETES	N	144	54	\$123,065	\$8.10	107	35	\$89,759	\$7.72	4.8 %
5	3	MOUJARO	DIABETES	N	112	46	\$106,960	\$7.04	29	12	\$25,934	\$2.23	215.4 %
6	17	ZEPBOUND	WEIGHT LOSS	N	114	47	\$105,924	\$6.97	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7	26	ENBREL SURECLICK	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	14	4	\$69,616	\$4.58	9	4	\$43,003	\$3.70	23.8 %
8	21	ELIQUIS	ANTICOAGULANT	N	103	38	\$53,690	\$3.53	60	21	\$28,806	\$2.48	42.5 %
9	13	DUPIXENT PEN	SKIN CONDITIONS	Y	20	5	\$51,130	\$3.36	5	2	\$12,093	\$1.04	223.3 %
10	15	SKYZI PEN	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	7	3	\$43,563	\$2.87	9	2	\$40,904	\$3.52	-18.6 %
11	18	FARXIGA	DIABETES	N	83	27	\$42,800	\$2.82	54	19	\$26,610	\$2.29	23.0 %
12	4	HUMIRA(CF) PEN	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	7	3	\$41,999	\$2.76	6	2	\$27,999	\$2.41	14.7 %
13	10	JARDIANCE	DIABETES	N	75	24	\$40,172	\$2.64	44	16	\$23,021	\$1.98	33.4 %
14	38	OTZLA	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	12	5	\$39,091	\$2.57	10	4	\$31,398	\$2.70	-4.8 %
15	32	NURTEC ODT	MIGRAINE HEADACHES	N	27	13	\$36,473	\$2.40	12	6	\$12,074	\$1.04	131.0 %
16	12	TRULICITY	DIABETES	N	41	14	\$35,239	\$2.32	45	15	\$37,934	\$3.26	-29.0 %
17	65	HUMIRA(CF)	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	7	2	\$34,666	\$2.28	5	2	\$23,885	\$2.05	11.0 %
18	30	TALTZ AUTOINJECTOR	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	7	3	\$33,446	\$2.20	6	3	\$27,566	\$2.37	-7.2 %
19	34	RYBELSUS	DIABETES	N	37	14	\$31,437	\$2.07	33	11	\$27,843	\$2.40	-13.7 %
20	35	DUPIXENT SYRINGE	SKIN CONDITIONS	Y	11	4	\$28,208	\$1.86	5	2	\$12,093	\$1.04	78.4 %
21	28	RINVOQ	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	3	1	\$25,472	\$1.68	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	47	UBRELVY	MIGRAINE HEADACHES	N	20	10	\$25,353	\$1.67	15	8	\$16,860	\$1.45	15.0 %
23	54	QULIPTA	MIGRAINE HEADACHES	N	25	11	\$23,150	\$1.52	11	5	\$9,142	\$0.79	93.6 %
24	44	XARELTO	ANTICOAGULANT	N	48	18	\$21,384	\$1.41	56	18	\$23,757	\$2.04	-31.2 %
25	69	REPATHA SURECLICK	HIGH BLOOD CHOLESTEROL	N	43	15	\$21,373	\$1.41	22	7	\$10,515	\$0.90	55.4 %
Total Top 25					1,133		\$1,513,270	\$99.56	584		\$645,905	\$55.57	79.2 %



Claims Summary

Paid Claim Distribution by Procedure Category

Procedure Category	2018	2019	2020
Diagnostic	24.5%	24.8%	25.0%
Preventive	22.7%	23.3%	21.8%
Restorative	12.1%	13.5%	12.7%
Crowns/Inlays	15.1%	13.1%	13.8%
Endodontic	7.2%	6.2%	7.4%
Periodontal	3.3%	2.6%	2.1%
Prosthodontics (removable)	1.1%	1.7%	0.8%
Prosthodontics (fixed)	1.2%	2.0%	2.0%
Oral Surgery	5.6%	6.4%	7.4%
Orthodontic	5.2%	4.0%	4.5%
Miscellaneous	2.0%	2.6%	2.6%

Procedure Category	2021	2022	2023
Diagnostic	25.8%	26.6%	26.4%
Preventive	23.3%	23.8%	23.5%
Restorative	12.2%	12.1%	12.9%
Crowns/Inlays	14.3%	13.0%	13.5%
Endodontic	5.6%	5.7%	5.0%
Periodontal	2.7%	3.0%	2.8%
Prosthodontics (removable)	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Prosthodontics (fixed)	2.3%	1.7%	1.4%
Oral Surgery	6.2%	6.0%	6.1%
Orthodontic	4.3%	4.8%	5.0%
Miscellaneous	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%

APPENDIX I

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

OPEN MINUTES

January 25, 2024

RANDOLPH MUNICIPAL HALL- 9:30 AM

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

ROLL CALL OF 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FUND COMMISSIONERS

2023 Executive Committee		
Scott Heck, Chair	Borough of Ringwood	Present
Tom Russo, Secretary	Town of Newton	Present
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights	Present
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE	Present
Silvio Esposito	Township of Hanover	Present
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston	Present
Greg Poff	Borough of Randolph*	Present
Executive Committee Alternates:		
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock	Present
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford	Present
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present

Fund Commissioners		
Mike Sondermeyer	Borough of Bloomingdale	Present
Michael Restel	Township of Wantage	Present
James Zepp	Township of Sparta	Present
Diana Francisco	Andover Township*	
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*	
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park	
Rey Julve	Township of Dover	
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding	
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*	Present
Joe Sabatini	Township of Byram*	
James Burnett	Borough of Madison*	
Open	Township of Prospect Park*	
John Shepherd	Township of Roxbury*	
Debra Millikin	Township of Jefferson*	Present

Open	Kinnelon	
Gabby Evangelista	Borough of Wharton	
	Borough of Chatham	
	Township of Vernon	
Fund Commissioner Alternates		
Ashleigh Frueholz	Township of Byram*	
Jennifer Dodd	Town of Newton	
Lisa Spring	Township of Roxbury*	
Joseph Kovalcik	Borough of Wharton	
Perry Mayers	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Jasmin Azcona	Township of Bloomingdale	
Michele Lantau	Township of Sparta	
Open	Borough of Netcong*	
Victoria Dobrusin	Township of Dover	Present
Sandra Emmerich	Borough of Madison*	
Nancy VanHorn	Township of Wantage	
Deborah Bonanno	Mountain Lakes	
William Egan	Township of Jefferson	
Dana Vitz	Township of Hardyston	
	Town of Boonton	
	Madison Housing Authority	

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
Prescription Administrator	Express Scripts	Charles Yuk
Treasurer	Michael Soccio	Present
Auditor	Nisivoccia	Absent
Actuary	John Vataha	Absent
Wellness Coordinator	Cavitas	Absent

PRESENT FUND PROFESSIONALS:

Renee Gear, World Insurance
 Frank Covelli, World Insurance
 Luhra Ebarle, Delta Dental
 Staci Grant, Henry O Baker
 Brittany Vozza, The Vozza Agency
 Randi Gerber, The Vozza Agency

FLAG SALUTE**APPROVAL OF OPEN October 26, 2023 and December 29, 2023 MINUTES:**

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES OF October 26, 2023 and December 29, 2023:

MOTION:	Commissioner T Russo
SECOND:	Commissioner Esposito
VOTE:	Unanimous

CALL TO ORDER THE SINE DIE MEETING:**ROLL CALL OF THE 2024 FUND COMMISSIONERS**

2024 Executive Committee		
Scott Heck, Chair	Borough of Ringwood	Present
Tom Russo, Secretary	Town of Newton	Present
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights	Present
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE	Present
Silvio Esposito	Township of Hanover	Present
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston	Present
Greg Poff	Borough of Randolph*	Present
Executive Committee Alternates:		
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock	Present

Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford	Present
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Fund Commissioners		
Mike Sondermeyer	Borough of Bloomingdale	Present
Michael Restel	Township of Wantage	Absent
James Zepp	Township of Sparta	Absent
Patricia Bussow	Andover Township*	Absent
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park	Present
Rey Julve	Township of Dover	Absent
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding	Absent
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*	Present
Joe Sabatini	Township of Byram*	Absent
James Burnett	Borough of Madison*	Absent
	Township of Prospect Park*	
John Shepherd	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Debra Millikin	Township of Jefferson*	Present
James Freda	Kinnelon	Absent
Gabby Evangelista	Borough of Wharton	Absent
Karen Fornaro	Borough of Chatham	Absent
	Township of Vernon	
	Town of Boonton	
	Madison Housing Authority	
Mitchell Stern	Mountain Lakes	Absent

Claudia Quinn	Mt. Olive	Absent
Fund Commissioner Alternates		
Ashleigh Frueholz	Township of Byram*	Absent
Jennifer Dodd	Town of Newton	Absent
Lisa Spring	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Joseph Kovalcik	Borough of Wharton	Present
Perry Mayers	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Jasmin Azcona	Township of Bloomingdale	Absent
Michele Lantau	Township of Sparta	Present
	Borough of Netcong*	
Victoria Dobrusin	Township of Dover	Absent
Sandra Emmerich	Borough of Madison*	Absent
Nancy VanHorn	Township of Wantage	Absent
Deborah Bonanno	Randolph Township	Absent
William Egan	Township of Jefferson	Absent
Dana Vitz	Township of Hardyston	Absent
Stephen Williams	Borough of Chatham	Absent
Shawn Bennett	Mountain Lakes	Absent

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ALTERNATES

Executive Director asks for nominations. Attorney swears in Officers and Executive Committee.

Recommended Slate:

2024 Executive Committee	
Scott Heck, Chair	Borough of Ringwood
Tom Russo, Secretary	Town of Newton
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE
Silvio Esposito	Township of Hanover
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston
Greg Poff	Borough of Randolph*
Executive Committee Alternates:	
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECCOMENDED SLATE AS PRESENTED

MOTION:

Commissioner Esposito

SECOND:

Commissioner T Russo

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL OF 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fast Track Financial Reports as of November 30, 2023 – Mrs. Koval reviewed the financial fast track through November 30, 2023. She said the month of November is showing a \$13.8M in statutory surplus. She stated that December is going to reflect the dividend that was declared but the year end should even out.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS – Mrs. Koval reviewed resolution 24-1 thru 24-11 with additional notes on the following:

#24-2 – Mrs. Koval stated that the broker fees are listed with four amendments: \$26.52 for Pequannock for both Vozza and the Broker; \$2.76 dental & \$43.43 for Dover; Wharton should show No Dental Fee; Kinnelon remove dental.

#24-6 – The meeting schedule has been amended to follow the January, March, May, July, etc schedule this year as it had a few years ago. A meeting notice will be sent to all after reorganization.

#24-8 – Current Signatories – signatories will stay the same.

#24-9 – RMP – Please note the Specific retention change.

#24-10 – We are recommending the MRHIF Commissioners remain from last year.

MUNICIPAL REINSURANCE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND – Mrs. Koval stated that the MRHIF executive committee met on December 13, 2023. The 2024 budget and assessments were adopted without amendment. The assessment included in the NJHIF 2024 budget was unchanged. The incumbent Benefits Administration system was approved for another one-year contract. A full review of the services promised in the RFP will occur next fall and the Fund will determine whether to extend another year or go back out to RFP.

The MRHIF will be welcoming a new member at its Reorg meeting in February. The Metro Fund, which is currently a sub group of the BMED will become an independent member of the MRHIF in 2024.

Resolution 24-12 will renew the NJHIF's membership in the MRHIF through the standard Indemnity and Trust agreement.

2023 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Below are the standing Committees:

<u>Contracts</u> Tammy Smith , Chair	<u>Operations</u> Adam Brewer, Chair	<u>Finance Committee</u> Scott Heck, Chair
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Silvio Esposito Dina Valente-Stoel	Carrie Piccolo - Kaufer Scott Heck	Adam Brewer Tom Russo Mike Soccio
<u>Wellness Committee</u> Carrie Piccolo - Kaufer, Chair Greg Poff Michael Sondermeyer	<u>Claims Committee</u> Tom Russo, Chair Perry Mayers Barbara Russo Silvio Esposito	

Chair Heck thanked PERMA for getting the December dividends out in a timely manner. Mr. Lodics stated that it was a joint effort and it couldn't have been done without the boards cooperation and the accounting efforts at PERMA.

PRORAM MANAGER REPORT

Program Manager Dave Voza reviewed the report included in the agenda

Update: The Twp of Mount Olive has accepted membership with the NJHIF with an effective date of 3/1/2024. Our office is currently working on implementation for this group. We have received the executed Indemnity & Trust Agreement along with the Resolution to join.

The Twp of Mount Olive is currently receiving their benefits through the SHBP. They have expressed an interest in becoming a member of the NJMEBF. We will be duplicating the plans from the SHBP for which there is current enrollment.

- ◆ **Size - 148 Actives; 77 Retirees (43 Medicare Advantage)**
- ◆ **Current type of plan(s) - NJ Direct 10; Direct 15; Direct 1525; Direct 2019 and Direct 2030 with integrated RX**
- ◆ **Medicare eligible Retirees - Medicare Advantage Plan**
- ◆ **Commitment to JIF philosophy and Active Participation in the Fund**
- ◆ **Vernon Age/Sex Factor - 1.0994**
- ◆ **Fund Average Age/Sex Factor - 1.2676**
- ◆ **Relativity - 0.8673**

HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS 2024

All High Deductible Health Plan limits have been increased to be compliant with IRS regulations for the minimum deductible and maximum out of pocket requirements for 2024.

MEDICARE PART B PREMIUMS

Medicare Part B Increase 2024:

Medicare Part B serves as medical insurance and covers doctor and other provider services, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment and some preventive services. Standard monthly premiums are slated to rise by \$9.80 per month to \$174.70 in 2024, from \$164.90 per month this year.

Aetna - Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation Update. Our office has filed the Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation for the NJHIF.

Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (CAA), group health plans and health insurance issuers are prohibited from entering into agreements with service providers restricting certain information that the plan may make available to another party. Plan sponsors and issuers must make a Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation (GCPCA) annually to confirm their compliance with the prohibition.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Medicare Advantage Address Changes

When making or updating address changes in the WEX system, you will also need to send the address change to the enrollment team to make the changes in the Medicare Advantage enrollment system. The Medicare Advantage plans are on a different system from WEX and therefore also need to be updated with the change.

Aetna Medicare Advantage

Reminder - Our office has received a few calls where Medicare Advantage members have been advised that their coverage is no longer effective. All Medicare Advantage members should have received new member ID cards for the 2024 plan year. Please see information below.

Effective January 1, 2024, Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO plans will transition to a new CMS contract. As a result of the transition, retirees will receive new ID cards prior to January 1, 2024. **Aetna ID numbers and the service center information currently listed on retiree ID cards will not change.** The only change to the ID card will be the contract number, located under the ID number. Any retirees moving to the Medicare Advantage plan for December 2023 will receive the new member ID card. Aetna notification letters will be mailed to affected members the first week of December.

UHC Medicare Advantage

Effective January 1, 2024, there is an ID card change that will affect our UHC Medicare Advantage members. This is only an administrative change and will have no impact on the coverage of services provided to the members. This change will allow UHC MA the ability to deploy future pharmacy initiatives to improve the health of our members and overall member pharmacy experience.

Beginning in November or December, members will be receiving new member ID cards along with plan information as part of the standard renewal process. Members should discard their old ID card and begin using the new card as of January 1, 2024.

Communication is being sent to pharmacies, notifying them of the change. If an old ID card is used, the member may be told the ID card presented does not show them as having coverage and the pharmacy should ask the member to present their new ID card. Members should contact customer service at the telephone number provided on the back of their member ID cards if they have any issues filling their prescription. Customer Service is aware of the changes and can assist the member with obtaining a replacement ID card, if necessary or speaking with the pharmacy to ensure the member has access to care.

TREASURER: Mr. Soccio was absent.

ATTORNEY: He stated that from a legal standpoint, the fund is running great considering the amount of claims that go through each year.

WELLNESS PROGRAM – Ms. Brittany Vozza reviewed the wellness report included in the agenda. We are excited to start our tenth year of the Funds wellness program for Hardyston, Randolph, and Sparta. Diverse wellness programs are one of the ways employers can offer a personalized and

flexible health plan for the changing and multi-generational workforce. Wellness is among one of the top 7 benefit trends of 2024.

Hardyston, Randolph, and Sparta will be completing an on-site metabolism testing and coaching session with a registered dietitian – Vernon Nutrition Center

Bloomington, Lincoln Park, Wantage and Wharton will be completing a sleep screening consultation and sleep hygiene coaching session with Atlantic Health Systems.

Pequannock and Ringwood will be completing a Fitness evaluation with Fitness Knocking

Dover will be completing a comprehensive screening with Lifeline screening.

The Funds wellness program has resources and seminars available for your employees even if you are not in our program. Please contact me with any questions or to start receiving these communications.

Brittany Voza bvozza@vozza.com

We will continue to focus on keeping employees healthy and providing education to help guide them so they can be educated health care consumers, maximize their benefits, and understand the importance of routine care.

Mrs. Kaufer stated that there will be a discussion for sending out an RFP for Wellness Coordinator in the future with the upcoming retirement of Mrs. Eskilson.

AETNA: Mr. Silverstein reviewed the claims report for the months of September, October and November 2023. He stated that there was 3 high cost claimants for the month of September over the threshold of \$50,000 and 3 for October and 3 for November. He reviewed the dashboard report included in the agenda stating that the metrics are performing well and are meeting the performance guarantees set in place.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS: Mr. Yuk reviewed the monthly utilization tracking report for the month of November 2023. He reviewed the top indications for the NJHIF for the current 1/23-11/23 vs the previous period. He stated that inflammatory conditions, diabetes and weight loss continue to be the highest in utilization.

DELTA DENTAL: Crista O'Donnell – no report

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND AMENDMENTS DISCUSSED INCLUDING:

Resolution 24-1: Appointment of Professionals and Contractors
Resolution 24-2: Compensating Producer
Resolution 24-3: Designation of Service of Process
Resolution 24-4: Designation of Secretary as Custodian of Records
Resolution 24-5: Designation of Official Newspaper
Resolution 24-6: Designation of Regular Meeting Times and Place
Resolution 24-7: Designation of Bank Depositories & CMP
Resolution 24-8: Designation of Authorized Signatories
Resolution 24-9: Approval of Risk Management Plan
Resolution 24-10: Appointment of MRHIF Fund Commissioners
Resolution 23-11: Authorizing Treasurer to Process Contracted Payments and Expenses
Resolution 24-12: MRHIF I&T Agreement
Resolution 24-13: Approval of 11/23, 12/23 and 1/24 Bills List
Resolution 24-14: Bank Earnings Base Rate

MOTION:	Commissioner Kaufer
SECOND:	Commissioner Smith
VOTE:	16 ayes, 0 nays

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION TO ADJOURN :

MOTION:	Commissioner Brewer
SECOND:	Commissioner T. Russo
VOTE:	All in Favor

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:40 am

**NEXT MEETING: February 28, 2024, 9:30 am
RANDOLPH MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Jordyn Robinson

For

Tom Russo, Secretary

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
OPEN MINUTES
March 28, 2024
RANDOLPH MUNICIPAL HALL- 9:30 AM**

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

ROLL CALL OF 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FUND COMMISSIONERS

2024 Executive Committee		
Scott Heck, Chair	Borough of Ringwood	Present
Tom Russo, Secretary	Town of Newton	Present
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights	Present
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE	Present
Silvio Esposito	Township of Hanover	Absent
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston	Present
Greg Poff	Borough of Randolph*	Present
Executive Committee Alternates:		
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock	Present
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford	Absent
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present

Fund Commissioners		Absent
Mike Sondermeyer	Borough of Bloomingdale	Absent
Michael Restel	Township of Wantage	Present
James Zepp	Township of Sparta	Present

Patricia Bussow	Andover Township*	Absent
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park	Absent
Rey Julve	Township of Dover	Absent
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding	Absent
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*	Absent
Joe Sabatini	Township of Byram*	Absent
James Burnett	Borough of Madison*	Absent
	Township of Prospect Park*	Absent
John Shepherd	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Debra Millikin	Township of Jefferson*	Absent
James Freda	Kinnelon	Absent
Gabby Evangelista	Borough of Wharton	Present
Karen Fornaro	Borough of Chatham	Present
	Township of Vernon	Absent
	Town of Boonton	Absent
	Madison Housing Authority	Absent
Mitchell Stern	Mountain Lakes	Absent
Claudia Quinn	Mt. Olive	Present
Fund Commissioner Alternates		
Ashleigh Frueholz	Township of Byram*	Absent
Jennifer Dodd	Town of Newton	Absent

Lisa Spring	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Joseph Kovalcik	Borough of Wharton	Absent
Perry Mayers	Borough of Lincoln Park	Absent
Jasmin Azcona	Township of Bloomingdale	Absent
Michele Lantau	Township of Sparta	Absent
	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Victoria Dobrusin	Township of Dover	Present
Sandra Emmerich	Borough of Madison*	Absent
Nancy VanHorn	Township of Wantage	Absent
Deborah Bonanno	Randolph Township	Absent
William Egan	Township of Jefferson	Absent
Dana Vitz	Township of Hardyston	Absent
Stephen Williams	Borough of Chatham	Absent
Shawn Bennett	Mountain Lakes	Absent

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director	PERMA Risk Management Services	Brandon Lodics Emily Koval
Program Manager	Vozza Agency	David Vozza Randi Gerber
Attorney	Dorsey & Semrau	Fred Semrau Ed Pasternak
Claims Administrator	Aetna	Jason Silverstein
Dental Administrator	Delta Dental	Luhra Ebarle
Prescription Administrator	Express Scripts	Charles Yuk
Treasurer	Michael Soccio	Present
Auditor	Nisivoccia	Absent
Actuary	John Vataha	Absent
Wellness Coordinator	Cavitas	Absent

PRESENT FUND PROFESSIONALS:

Renee Gear, World Insurance
Sandra Olivola, Woodland Park
Liz Vastola, Henry O Baker
Candy Bronco, Skylands Risk Management
Joe Riede, EBCSG
Lois Manzella Marchietta, Fitness Knocking

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Heck said there were no minutes available but the January minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fast Track Financial Reports as of December 2023 and January 2024 – Executive Director said there was a substantial surplus loss in December, but there was a large dividend so it was actually not a loss. We there was a large IBNR update from the actuary, moving \$255,000 from surplus to IBNR. It was a move to cover additional liability he projected. This may change that after another review in the first quarter. Overall, the fund did operationally make \$440k. There was large investment income which is good, thanks to the Treasurer and also a MRHIF dividend.

January also showed a loss at the end of the month. Executive Director said that claims were higher than budgeted and the IBNR is always higher in the beginning of the year. He said the Program Manager will be addressing claims in his report.

Chair Heck said that the Fund is still retaining the minimum surplus retention of the retention policy. The Finance Committee will continuously be reviewing.

COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM - JOINING MEMBER - Executive Director said that in 2023, the MRHIF and its affiliates sought approval from the NJ Office of the Comptroller to issue an RFP for TPA Services for the local Funds. Approval was not given, as the Comptroller's office felt that MRHIF did not have the authority to procure a claims agent being utilized by the local Funds. To secure TPA services for PY 2024, the local Funds each performed a 1-year contract for TPA services in the hopes that group purchasing would be permitted for a longer contract starting in 2025.

We have reviewed with the MRHIF QPA and Attorney who agree that the Funds may enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with a lead agent. The SNJREBF will be the lead agent as they currently have existing contracts with both HIF TPAs and Medicare Advantage providers.

The concept of the HIF Cooperative Pricing System was presented to the MRHIF Commissioners by the MRHIF Attorney and received full support.

Two entities are needed to form – the Southern HIF and BMED will be the initial members of the System. A resolution to join is included, along with the agreement to be signed by the Fund Chair.

Fund Attorney said this is very similar to the Morris County Cooperative. He applauded the team for their efforts. Commissioner Smith volunteered to be the representative.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-15 TO JOIN THE COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM :

MOTION:	Commissioner Brewer
SECOND:	Commissioner B. Russo
VOTE:	All in Favor

DIRECT MEMBER BILLING – Executive Director said that we are aware that some of our entities, their risk managers and the Program Manager’s Office have been contacted by direct bill enrollees regarding delays and incorrect 2024 rates they’re being billed. 2024 coupon payment information were sent the first week of March.

On behalf of our office and WEX (North HIF Benefits Administrator), we apologize for any concerns or challenges this may have created for you and your members. Most importantly, please be assured that no member coverage was impacted by these delays/errors.

PERMA is working with WEX to take the following corrective steps to improve this experience going forward:

- 1) Senior leadership meeting with PERMA and WEX.
 - a. Customer Service
 - b. Resources
 - c. Project plan tool
 - d. Suppressing automated communications
- 2) Evaluation of current process for improvement.
- 3) Creation of additional tools to streamline process and eliminate manual intervention.
- 4) Proactive HIF outreach to membership in Executive Committee meetings and direct to membership.

As we continue to evaluate processes and implement improvements, we will keep the Executive Committee updated.

We want to recognize and thank, the Program Manager’s office for fielding the related service outreaches, which was beyond the normal volume.

Chair Heck said if a member does have an issue to not wait to contact the Executive Director and Fund Leadership. He said the system needs improvement but PERMA is working to correct.

In response to Commissioner Smith, asking for 3 months of premium at once, Executive Director said that cash is important, although no one lost coverage. We recommended that everyone pay their 2023 rates and then the additional 5% for those three months would be requested at this time. Unfortunately, there were many automated letters from Wex that have been suppressed. We will work with the operations committee on next steps in 2025.

FEBRUARY MRHIF MEETING - The MRHIF had their reorganization meeting on February 15, 2024. Commissioner Esposito was present to represent the Fund.

Below are some of the key highlights:

1. The Fund Attorney provided an overview of the **Cooperative Pricing System Initiative**.
2. Approval was granted for the Fund Attorney to manage the **Cooperative Pricing System** filing.
3. Approval to go out to RFP for a **Data Warehouse system** was approved.
4. Approval to go out to **RFP for Reinsurer** for multi-year contract was approved.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS - The Financial Disclosure notice emails will be sent out in April. The deadline for filing is April 30, 2024. Please file as soon as you get the email.

Reminder: A separate filing will need to be done for each position – HIF Fund Commissioner, JIF Fund Commissioner, Local Elected Official, etc.

PRORAM MANAGER REPORT

Program Manager Dave Voza reviewed the report included in the agenda.

Program Manager said that as a follow up to the Financials that were reviewed with the Executive Director, the enrollment did increase due to new membership. Therefore, the illustrations are being presented as a pepm rather than dollar amounts. There was an increase in January of larger claims. Hospital and medical surgery is up significantly. This trend started in 2023 through 2024. Generally, January is claims from the prior year. He said there is a 7.7% increase YOY, which was more than budgeted. Program Manager said he is discussing with Aetna regarding hospital contracts as they renew.

Overall, medical trend has been lower in most recent years. He said the in network utilization is slightly lower, but can significantly impact the claims. He said there were more high risk pregnancies and length of stay was higher, as well. He said that new weight loss drugs may be impacting prescription increases. He said many of these high claimants are still in our layer, and not getting reimbursements. Hopefully there will be a good renewal for this fund, though of the reinsurance.

Program Manager said that the prescription is running well as there were 2 large prescription scripts that were termed to the Fund, but being replaced by the GLP -1 drugs and weight loss drugs. 3 of the top 5 expensive drugs is weight loss. He will continue to work directly with Executive Director and finance committee to continue monitoring.

TOWN VISITS/MEETINGS/PLAN CHANGE REQUESTS

Our office frequently works with towns for review of plan options for union negotiations. If anyone is entering union negotiations and needs assistance, please feel free to contact our office directly to discuss.

ENROLLMENT, ELIGIBILITY, BILLING

The funds policy is to limit retro corrections, including terminations to 60 days. Please check your monthly invoice for accuracy. If you find a discrepancy, please report it immediately to the NJHIF enrollment Team at northernnj enrollments@permainc.com

- *Use of the WEX (formerly Benefits Express) enrollment system is mandatory.*

Online Enrollment System Training Schedule – 2024

PERMA offers virtual training and a refresher class of the online enrollment system the third Wednesday of each month. The session provides an overview of the Fund’s enrollment system and shows HR users how to perform tasks in the system. To gain access to the Fund’s enrollment system, each HR user must complete a system access form.

Wednesday -	April 17th 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday -	May 15th 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday -	June 19th 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday -	July 17th 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday -	August 21st 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday -	September 18th 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday -	October 16th 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday -	November 20th 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Please email Austin Flinn at PERMA to join a training session.

In the subject line of the email, please include *Training - Fund Name and Client Name*. Please be sure to add the date of the training you would like to attend to your email so an invite can be sent.

- Email: aflinn@permainc.com

NEW MEDICAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

The Twp of Mount Olive was successfully transitioned to the NJHIF effective 3/1/2024. This now completes the transition of 8 municipal groups who have transitioned from the SHBP to the NJMEBF since 1/1/2023. Just as a recap – the 8 new groups and effective dates are as follows:

Jefferson Twp – January 1, 2023
Madison Borough – April 1, 2023
Madison Housing Authority – May 1, 2023
Town of Boonton – May 1, 2023
Chatham Borough – August 1, 2023
Vernon Twp – September 1, 2023

Kinnelon Borough – October 1, 2023
Mount Olive Twp – March 1, 2024

DATA MANAGEMENT

Our office / data analyst has provided the data necessary for the actuary to complete the IBNR projections for the NJHIF.

MRHIF REINSURANCE RFP

Last year's RFP for the MRHIF contract was awarded as a single year contract since a multiyear contract, as has been the terms in the past, would need prior approval of the OSC which, according to our QPA wasn't feasible due to time constraints last year. So that we would be able to issue a multiyear award, we requested and received authorization to start the RFP process early this year in conjunction with our QPA by sending the required documents to OSC to obtain the required pre-approval which would put us on course to issue the formal RFP mid-year.

AETNA

New York Presbyterian Healthcare System – Possible Termination

Our office has been notified of the possible termination of New York Presbyterian Healthcare System.

There are 10 NJHIF members that have accessed the healthcare system within the last 12 months and may be affected by the termination. Attached separately is a copy of the notification letter Aetna has sent to any affected member.

Below is a list of Facilities that would be affected by the termination.

Columbia University Irving Medical Center
NewYork - Presbyterian Allen Hospital
NewYork - Presbyterian Westchester
NewYork - Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center
NewYork - Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital

NewYork - Presbyterian Westchester Division
NewYork - Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital
NewYork - Presbyterian Queens
NewYork - Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital
Gracie Square Hospital

On 2/26/2024, NewYork-Presbyterian (NYP) Healthcare System sent notices to impacted members by email and/or mail advising them of the negotiation and potential termination. NYP has also created the following site to provide information for members: <https://www.nyp.org/aetna>. You can access a copy of NYP's letter from the site.

Aetna continues to negotiate with NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System in good faith, but the parties remain far apart. Aetna will provide an update on the negotiations with the facility during our fund meeting.

EXPRESS - SCRIPTS

SAVEON SP

The NJMEBF has saved a total of \$406,236 through the SAVEON SP Program for the 2023 calendar year with a total of 74 plan participants enrolled in the program. Drugs for the treatment of Inflammatory conditions continues to be the top expense for specialty in this program. The full SaveOn report is attached separately and provides additional information on other specialty medications and the savings associated with each.

TREASURER: Mr. Soccio reviewed the bills lists and CIR report. He noted that Citizens replaced Investors and is noted in the Cash Management Plan. In response to Commissioner Brewer, Mr. Soccio said he does not have any issues.

ATTORNEY: Fund Attorney said there were 2 claims that went through the Claims committee that we will be going forward with a resolution at the next meeting. There are 2 new lawsuits that also came in. He said most of these, if not all, are out of network disputes. We will keep you posted on those. He did not request action today on these claims.

WELLNESS PROGRAM – Commissioner Kaufer said that Marianne's report is in the packet. She said that the Committee has begun scheduling with the vendors and wrapping up with Ms. Smith's position at the end of the month. The Fund did not receive any responses to the RFP for coordinator, we discussed with the wellness committee to have the Voza agency and we are working on contract with the contracts committee.

Ms. Voza reviewed the coordinator's report. She said there were 2 individuals that did biometrics and were high risk and are working with their primary doctor. Chair. Heck said his town is enjoying the program and encourages the new members to join..

AETNA: Mr. Silverstein reviewed the Aetna report included in the agenda. The Fund does have excellent in-network utilization. Good news is that NY Pres was finalized and there will be no disruption in service. He said Hackensack meridian is up in July. They are challenging and requesting double digit increases. There is a good chance that could go to the very end of this contract term.

Chair Heck said that there was concern about NY Pres, although sure that there will be increase in cost. In response to Chair Heck, Mr. Silverstein said that the contracts are staggered, but they are getting larger and purchasing smaller groups now. He said that NY Pres is only one year contract. But, started more negotiations already. We also just complete Deboarah Cancer and there are a handful in NY that are up, as well. Executive Director said since we are self insured, the Fund is able to be creative. It does seem that post – covid there are many hospital contracts getting more challenges. Aetna is negotiating on our behalf. But these groups are getting larger and larger and the bigger player. Chair Heck said there are still out of network benefits. Mr. Silverstein said that doctors do have admitting privileges to many hospitals.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS: Mr. Yuk reviewed the monthly utilization tracking report for the month of January and are in tandem with what the Program Manager reported.

DELTA DENTAL: Ms. Ebarle reviewed the chart included in the Delta Dental agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION TO ADJOURN :

MOTION:	Commissioner Brewer
SECOND:	Commissioner T. Russo
VOTE:	All in Favor

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:26 am

NEXT MEETING: May 23, 2024, 9:30 am
RANDOLPH MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Emily Koval For

Tom Russo, Secretary

APPENDIX II

NJHIF Operations Committee Meeting

May 1, 2024, 9:00am

Zoom

Adam Brewer, Committee Chair
Scott Heck, Fund Chair
Carrine Kauffer, Committee Member
David Vozza, Program Manager
Brittany Vozza, Vozza Agency
Randi Gerber, Vozza Agency
Brandon Lodics, Fund Executive Director
Emily Koval, Fund Assoc. Executive Director

Mr. Vozza opened the meeting by reviewing the impact of the GPL-1 drugs and the associated cost to the Fund. He said weight loss drugs are the top 3 drug spend in the Fund. He introduced ESI that has a program for these specific drugs.

Mr. Yuk said that these drugs are a problem across the state and ESI are developing a way to save the fund money but also give these drugs to those who truly need it.

Ms. Patel reviewed the specific drug brands that are in question, which were included in the presentation distributed. The cost, drug timing and the FDA approved condition they are to be used for. There are some that are only indicated for weight loss, while others for diabetes. Mr. Yuk said that ZepBound is a new weight loss drug that was only becoming more popular in late 2023. The NJHIF has 47 fills this year for this Fund and no reduction in Wegovy.

In response to Mr. Vozza, Ms. Patel said that Zepbound is becoming more popular because of the cost and ease. Mr. Vozza suggested including this drug on the formulary. Mr. Yuk said Wegovy has not been removed from the formulary mostly because of drug shortage, but may in the future should the supply and demand level out.

Mr. Yuk said there is a three prong approach to this program: There is a financial guarantee to the Fund. First, there is clinical criteria. The BMI is increasing and additional documentation. Second, there is a lifestyle program that must be taken and ESI will be monitoring the data with the Fund. Third, the off-label script control will be monitored to ensure there is no fraud and prescribers are prescribing as the FDA intends.

Ms. Patel said the current PA does not include any documentation and the BMI is increasing from 30 to 32. There are also co-morbidities that must be followed up with documentation, such as diabetes and hypertension. Mr. Yuk said that BMIs between 32-40 are 3x higher to have a cardiovascular issue. If there is diabetes, the drug will be approved but must have documentation.

Current member can be grandfathered into the new PA, which would start September 1. Mr. Yuk said the NJHIF has 257 PAs currently for this classification of drug. If we started this program, there would be a large disruption. The recommendation would be to allow active PAs to run out then run the new Prior Authorization when their script runs out. The financial guarantee will not be active until all 257 PAs expire. Ms. Pavel reviewed the lifestyle modification engagement program which is mandatory. Should a member not engage or meet the requirements, the medication will

not filled the next month. In response to Mr. Heck, Ms. Pavel said that if there is a comorbidity, they will always get the medication. Mr. Heck asked if there was some other reason a member cannot do the exercise requirement, will they not be able to get the medication. Ms. Pavel said it does not require daily exercise, there are many aspects in the application, such as choosing a better meal and weigh ins 4 times a month and go into the application 4 times a month. The member will receive a scale from Omada. Should a member not have access to an application, the member can go directly to the website. Mr. Yuk said overrides can be made, per a Fund directive. In addition, the scale is connected to the app so weigh ins are automatically collected.

In response to Mr. Brewer, Ms. Patel said that today is the first day it has been impended for ESI clients so there has not yet been any reactions to share. Ms. Gerber said that this is not a huge ask for a member taking for weight and no other comorbidities. Mr. Brewer said the decrease of those with diabetes will be a financial gain for the Fund. Ms. Gerber said this program is trying to steer this medication to the appropriate population and not keep it from those who need it. Ms. Patel agreed that these drugs need to be reserved for those need it. Diabetics only need to show documentation, they do not need join the lifestyle management program.

Ms. Patel said the anti-fraud portion of this program is through data analytics. Mr. Yuk said there is a \$1 to \$1 match for the \$1.45 pepm program cost. The lower program cost would be charged while the prior authorization is grand-fathered for current prescribers. In modeling the NJHIF data, Mr. Yuk said that after 2 years not doing anything, there would be a cost of \$35 pepm in 2025; whereas with this program, the cost projection would be about \$16 pepm for this drug spend. In addition, Mr Yuk said the Fund has \$9,500 in pharmacy management fund that can be used towards this program. The total cost for one year would be \$45,000. Mr. Lodics said it is a small investment for a large problem. Although the Fund cannot eliminate the drugs, it is important to control what the Fund can. Mr. Brewer said that if this program eliminates 2-3 people from being prescribed, the Fund saves.

The Committee agreed that the program should be implemented. ESI will provide the communication samples for the Fund.

NJHIF Operations Committee Meeting

May 15, 2024, 9:00am

Zoom

Adam Brewer, Committee Chair
Scott Heck, Fund Chair
Carrine Kauffer, Committee Member
David Voza, Program Manager
Brittany Voza, Voza Agency
Randi Gerber, Voza Agency
Dave Voza, Voza Agency
Emily Koval, Fund Assoc. Executive Director

New Member – Mendham Township - Mr. Voza said this group has been in process for a while, waiting for additional information. The group does not look very competitive but asking for new plan designs with low cost options for the group to help them possibly come to the Fund if the State is as high as it is projected for 1/1/2024.

Dave reviewed the demographics of the group. He said the broker has some lower cost plans that he'd like to implement. The earliest we could bring this group in would be September and renew on 7/1/2025. At this point, the group would be about 8% over the current State Plan. Mr. Brewer said that essentially, the Fund would be offering a quote and giving options, but it sounds like they would be unlikely to move. Mr. Voza agreed. Mr. Heck agreed that it is unlikely anyone would move for 8%, as long as it is not costing the Fund anything then to proceed with the offering. Mr. Voza said the 5% margin would continue over time. The Committee agreed to release the information and recommend to offer membership.

In addition, Mr. Voza said that there was an inquiry from a broker with some very small groups in Warren County. The broker would need updated information, but asked the Committee if they would consider. These groups can be very volatile. Mr. Voza also said that the Fund is getting closer to the 2.5 surplus retention policy and these small groups could affect it. The Committee said they would not like to pursue this at this time. Although, in the future could discuss the option of banding the small groups together but this would be a legal, binding agreement of all groups.

Mr. Voza said that Montville's broker has reached out, as well. The Committee agreed to review the data but be selective of who we offer membership to.

Mr. Brewer said that scheduling committee meetings should be made with the Program Manager and PERMA prior to coming to the Committee.

In reference to the wellness coordinator services, Mr. Brewer said that the Wellness Coordinator RFP could have been written better and released more broadly. The Voza agency did not respond to the RFP. He said that Wellness needs to be re-reviewed and maybe Voza is the right contract, but needs to be reviewed and this was not the correct way to go about this. Voza said that there were no responses to the RFP and he was asked to help with the process, not

particularly something they would like to undertake. Mr. Brewer said that the Vozza agency is already getting paid for wellness. Mr. Heck said that this will be pulled from the agenda for next week.

