

Minutes

State, Local Education and Local Government Insurance Committees

October 26, 2023

1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. (CST)

The State, Local Education and Local Government Insurance Committees met on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (central), in the Nashville Room, Third Floor, William R. Snodgrass TN Tower, Nashville, TN and via Cisco WebEx.

Eugene Neubert, Deputy Commissioner of TN Department of Finance & Administration, called the Insurance Committee meetings to order at 1:00 p.m. (central) and noted that he is attending on behalf of Commissioner Jim Bryson, Nicole Sweitzer attending on behalf of Comptroller Jason Mumpower, Rick DuBray for Treasurer David Lillard, and LaTanya McAdoo for Terry Carroll (TSEA).

State Insurance Committee Members

Present:

- Eugene Neubert, Chairman, representing Jim Bryson, Commissioner, Finance and Administration
- Rick DuBray, representing David Lillard, State Treasurer, Department of Treasury
- Nicole Sweitzer, representing Jason Mumpower, Comptroller, Comptroller of the Treasury
- Carter Lawrence, Commissioner, Commerce and Insurance
- Juan Williams, Commissioner, Human Resources
- LaTanya McAdoo, representing Terry Carroll, Tennessee State Employees Association
- Judi Knecht, state employee representative
- Holly Girgies, representing Higher Education (TN Board of Regents)

Absent:

- Sen. Bo Watson, Chair of Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee
- Rep. Patsy Hazlewood, Chair of House Finance, Ways and Means Committee
- Michelle Consiglio-Young, state employee representative

Local Education Insurance Committee Members

Present:

- Eugene Neubert, Chairman, representing Jim Bryson, Commissioner, Finance and Administration
- Rick DuBray, representing David Lillard, State Treasurer, Department of Treasury
- Nicole Sweitzer, representing Jason Mumpower, Comptroller, Comptroller of the Treasury
- Carter Lawrence, Commissioner, Commerce and Insurance
- Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education
- Erin Johnson, East TN School Employee representative (by teleconference)

Absent:

- Kristy Baddour, West TN School Employee representative
- Jennifer White, Tennessee School Board Association
- Vacant Seat in Middle TN

Local Government Insurance Committee Members

Present:

- Eugene Neubert, Chairman, representing Jim Bryson, Commissioner, Finance and Administration
- Rick DuBray, representing David Lillard, State Treasurer, Department of Treasury
- Nicole Sweitzer, representing Jason Mumpower, Comptroller, Comptroller of the Treasury
- Kevin Krushenski, Tennessee Municipal League

Absent:

- Vacancy, Tennessee County Services Association

Agenda Item #1 – Public Comment

Per Public Chapter 300 of 2023, this time is reserved to recognize and permit public comment on matters germane to items on the agenda. Debbie Owens, a retired State employee, notified the Benefits Administration staff she wished to speak on agenda item number 3, Plan Document Updates. Chairman Neubert asked if anyone present either in the room or by virtual means also wished to make a public comment but none in attendance asked to speak on an agenda item. Chairman Neubert indicated that Ms. Owens would be recognized when the Committees addressed item 3.

Agenda Item #2 – [Action] August 24, 2023 Minutes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the State Insurance Committee to adopt the minutes of the August 24, 2023 meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Lawrence and seconded by Commissioner Williams. No discussion occurred and a roll call vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Williams	Yes
Knecht	Yes	McAdoo	Yes
Girgias	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Education Insurance Committee to adopt the minutes of the August 24, 2023 meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Durski and seconded by Mr. DuBray. No discussion occurred and a roll call vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Durksi	Yes
Johnson	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Government Insurance Committee to adopt the minutes of the August 24, 2023 meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Krushenski and seconded by Mr. DuBray. No discussion occurred and a voice vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Krushenski	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Agenda Item #3 – [Action] Plan Document Recommended Updates (Attachment B)

Chairman Neubert recognized Ms. Owens and gave her five minutes to address agenda item number 3. Ms. Owens stressed the importance of private duty nursing for her son and other plan members who are similarly situated. Ms. Owens thanked BA staff Dr. Andrea Dowdy, Clinical Director, and Tresa Jones, Director of Health Plan Policy, for their work on this matter. Chairman Neubert opened up the floor to questions to Ms. Owens upon the completion of her remarks.

Chairman Neubert recognized Ms. Jones to discuss the suggested Plan Document changes. Ms. Jones explained the first set of changes that coincides with Attachment B, which would take Plan Document sections 11 (Medical Benefits) and 12 (Mental Health/Substance Use Benefits) and combine them into a new section 11 and eliminate outdated provisions. This would go into effect on November 1, 2023.

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the State Insurance Committee to adopt the Plan Document updates as outlined in Attachment B. Motion was made by Mr. DuBray and seconded by Commissioner Lawrence. No discussion occurred and a voice vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Williams	Yes
Knecht	Yes	McAdoo	Yes
Girgias	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Education Insurance Committee to adopt the Plan Document updates as outlined in Attachment B. Motion was made by Ms. Durksi and seconded by Ms. Sweitzer. No discussion occurred and a roll call vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Durksi	Yes
Johnson	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Government Insurance Committee to adopt the Plan Document updates as outlined in Attachment B. Motion was made by Mr. Krushenski and seconded by Mr. DuBray. Discussion occurred before a voice vote was taken.

Mr. Krushenski asked Ms. Jones about a change that would affect the Local Education and Local Government plan with active members – he asked for clarity what change that would be. Ms. Jones specified that it would be the EAP benefit.

No additional discussion occurred, and the voice vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Krushenski	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Agenda Item #3.1 – [Action] Plan Document Recommended Updates (Revised Attachments C&D)

Ms. Jones presented the next set of proposed Plan Document changes: definitions, incapacitated dependents, skilled nursing facility services, home health care and private duty nursing. The effective date is November 1, 2023.

Chairman Neubert referenced Ms. Owens’ remarks to the Committees.

Commissioner Lawrence asked a question about the definition of “immediate relative”. Dr. Dowdy addressed Commissioner Lawrence’s inquiry by stating it was based off of federal and state regulations. Commissioner Lawrence asked if the Department’s Office of General Counsel could comment on this matter. Mary Ferrara, Senior Associate Counsel, stated it was not intended to be exclusive, it was to be inclusive and consistent with the federal and state standards. Chairman Neubert asked that the BA staff review the verbiage with the Office of General Counsel. Commissioner Lawrence stated that would be satisfactory and asked the staff to ensure it is legally sufficient and consistent with the Governor’s emphasis.

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the State Insurance Committee to adopt the Plan Document updates as outlined in Revised Attachments C&D. Motion was made by Commissioner Lawrence and seconded by Ms. Knecht. No further discussion occurred, and a voice vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Williams	Yes
Knecht	Yes	McAdoo	Yes
Girgies	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Education Insurance Committee to adopt the Plan Document updates as outlined in Revised Attachments C&D. Motion was made by Ms. Durski and seconded by Ms. Sweitzer. No discussion occurred and a roll call vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Durksi	Yes
Johnson	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Government Insurance Committee to adopt the Plan Document updates as outlined in Revised Attachments C&D. Motion was made by Mr. Krushenski and seconded by Mr. DuBray. Discussion occurred before a voice vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Krushenski	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Agenda Item #4 – [Action] Cigna Musculoskeletal Remote Recovery

Chairman Neubert recognized Dr. Dowdy to present the Cigna musculoskeletal remote recovery agenda item. BlueCross BlueShield and Cigna offered personalized exercise therapy programs – similar to physical therapy – in 2022, with no cost to our members. Cigna’s contractor is RecoveryOne and BlueCross BlueShield’s contractor is Hinge Health. Starting 1/1/24, Cigna is not renewing their program with RecoveryOne or replacing it with a new program. BA worked with Cigna to find an in-network program that would be of similar nature. BA asked the Committees to waive the cost share for those members receiving this type of treatment in the Cigna network through Airrosti Remote Recovery, in order to provide a comparable benefit as is offered through BlueCross BlueShield.

Chairman Neubert asked what the average cost would roughly come to. Dr. Dowdy said it would be around \$550 for a year’s worth of care. Mr. Krushenski asked if that specific provider would also be in BlueCross BlueShield’s program as well. Dr. Dowdy said the member cost share would not be waived for this provider group because BlueCross BlueShield already has an arrangement with Hinge Health.

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the State Insurance Committee to approve waiving member cost share with Airrosti Remote Recovery as a replacement to RecoveryOne for Cigna members. Motion was made by Ms. Sweitzer and seconded by Commissioner Lawrence. No discussion occurred and a voice vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Williams	Yes
Knecht	Yes	McAdoo	Yes
Girgies	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Education Insurance Committee to approve waiving member cost share with Airrosti Remote Recovery as a replacement to RecoveryOne for Cigna

members. Motion was made by Ms. Durski and seconded by Commissioner Lawrence. No discussion occurred and a roll call vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Lawrence	Yes	Durksi	Yes
Johnson	Yes	Neubert	Yes

Chairman Neubert called for a motion for the Local Government Insurance Committee to approve waiving member cost share with Airrosti Remote Recovery as a replacement to RecoveryOne for Cigna members. Motion was made by Mr. Krushenski and seconded by Mr. DuBray. No discussion occurred before a voice vote was taken.

Sweitzer	Yes	DuBray	Yes
Krushenski	Yes	Neubert	Yes

The next meeting of the State, Local Education and Local Government Insurance Committees is scheduled for December 8, 2023, in the morning. With no further business, Chairman Neubert adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m. (central).

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie S. Lee