

State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Advisory Commission Minutes

October 8, 2024

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, October 8, at 10:00 a.m.

ASE Commission Members Present:

Ronda Walthall

Marty Casteel

Bruce Maloch

Jerry Jones

Cynthia Dunlap

PSE Commission Members Present:

Jim Tucker

Billy Jackson

Greg Rogers

Others Present: Grant Wallace, Director of EBD; Jay Bir, EBD; Krista Grafe, EBD; Janella Deville, EBD; Kimberly DuVall, EBD; Sylvia Landers, Colonial Life; Sherry Bryant, EBRx; Trey Gardner, EBRx; Kristen Belew, EBRx; Ashley Boes, EBRx; Jay Eickman, Navitus; Paul Sakhrani, Milliman; Dr. Jill Johnson, UAMS; Marc Bagby, Lilly; Frances Bauman, Novo Nordisk; Lori Bowen, BLR; Alix Stephens, BLR; Takisha Sanders, Health Advantage; Carl Carter, Health Advantage; Jessica Akins, Health Advantage; Stephen Carroll, AllCare Specialty; Natalie Cantley, Abbott; Amanda Smith, Abbott; Frances Bauman, Julia Weber, Brian Loeb, Brent Parker, Emilie Monk, Cassandra Mendenhall, Glenda Martin, Bob Atkins, and 6 others.

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Cynthia Dunlap called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum for both the ASE and PSE Commissions.

2. Approval of September 10 & September 26 Minutes, Cynthia Dunlap

Marty Casteel moved to approve the minutes from the September 10 Regular Meeting, seconded by Greg Rogers. **Motion Passed.**

Billy Jackson moved to approve the minutes from the September 26 Special Meeting, seconded by Casteel. **Motion Passed.**

3. Director's Update, Grant Wallace

Director Wallace indicated the Division is in the midst of Open Enrollment for active employees and encouraged everyone who is or may listen to the meeting to get engaged in the process. He said the staff is doing an excellent job keeping up with the flow of questions and requests coming their way.

4. Contract Review, Director Wallace

Director Wallace presented a one-year extension with Mainstream Technologies, Inc. He said this contract is to allow for time to transition to a new system. The Request For Proposal (RFP) for the technology services should be going out within a week. The current Mainstream agreement ends in December of 2024. If a new partner can transition in three months, for example, then the contract will end with Mainstream at that point. The contract amount is for up to \$1.75 million, with Director Wallace indicating he hopes it does not go that high.

Jerry Jones moved for approval, seconded by Ronda Walthall. **Motion Passed.**

5. Formulary Review, Jay Eickman

Jay Eickman presented the October Formulary Advisory Committee (FAC) recommendations. The following drugs were recommended to be added or changed on the formulary:

- Retevmo™ Tablets (40, 80, 120, & 160mg)
- Retevmo™ Caplets 40 & 80mg
- Lidocaine gel
- ELMIRON® Caplets
- FUZEON® Injections
- CIMZIA® Injections (office admin only)
- SIVEXTRO® Tablets
- Nurtec® Tablets
- Rezdiffra™ (resmetirom) – NASH (MASH)

Chairwoman Dunlap asked about the two members on the Retevmo caplets being granted a lifetime grandfathering and how that works. Director Wallace said these would be covered as if they were on the formulary and the lifetime is meant for the treatment cycle, whether it is six months, nine months, or more. The grandfather status guarantees the members receive this drug through their respective treatment cycles, but not beyond that. Chairwoman Dunlap followed up by asking if they would receive notification of this change, and Director Wallace said they would.

Casteel moved to approve the recommendations, seconded by Walthall. **Motion Passed.**

6. Other Business

Billy Jackson asked, if retirees want to keep the coverage they are currently enrolled in, whether they have to enroll again or would their prior selection roll in to 2025? Director Wallace responded that, if retirees are not making changes, then there is nothing they need to do. The only reason retirees would need to contact EBD is if they are making changes.

Walthall said, she has conducted Open Enrollment meetings and so far everyone she is aware of has been able to access the portal and make their changes and everything has been going smoothly at ARDOT.

Marty Casteel motioned to adjourn until November 5, 2024, seconded by Billy Jackson. **Motion Passed.**