

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2005, 8:30AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenneth Edge, Chairman
Jeannette Council

OTHERS PRESENT: Commissioner John Henley, Jr.
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Mark Browder
Sarah Weiser, PhD., BCBS
John Crumpton, NCACC
Kim Kilday, NCACC
Nancy Driscoll, BCBS
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

MEMBER ABSENT: Commissioner Talmage Baggett

Chairman Kenneth Edge called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes: April 14, 2005

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to approve.
SECOND: Chairman Edge
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Review/discussion of Health Insurance Annual Utilization Study and Care Management by member

Dr. Sarah Weiser summarized the Study: (3 month period – July –September 2004)

- the NCACC Cumberland County Employees' Group average age is much higher than the norm for Blue Option members;
- there are more female members in this Group;
- for the total Group, all three measures of utilization – admission rate, day rate and average length of stay, each increased, with the exception of the admission rate for Blue Options members;
- hospital outpatient visit rate increased for Blue Care members, declined for Blue Options members
- emergency room visit rate increased for both segments;
- office rate visit increased for Blue Options members and decreased for Blue Care Members

- average allowed charge per office visit increased to a level higher than the norm for both segments;
- prescription drug payment for PMPM for Blue Care members rose 6% in the most recent study and was 4% above the norm;
- prescription drug payment for Blue Option members rose 11% and was 25% above the norm;
- the payment PMPM for both Blue Care and Blue Options members increased.

Commissioner Henley inquired if BCBS is actively pursuing enrollment in its programs and if BCBS is discussing case management with physicians. It was noted that some employees have refused to participate in case management services.

In response to a question from Commissioner Henley, BCBS noted that it does not provide nurses at the hospital to help manage cases. It does provide case management over the telephone by speaking with the patient and/or nurse and doctor. Commissioner Henley said that it would be more effective to have a case management nurse at the hospital.

In response to a question from Commissioner Council, Dr. Sarah Weiser said that BCBS would help the County put together a project plan which would encourage employees to participate in case management services. Dr. Weiser indicated they would bring people on-site to speak with employees directly concerning management services available and how those services would directly benefit not only the employee but the county.

In addition, BCBS can provide information that can go out in the County's newsletter regarding management care services. Commissioner Council encouraged BCBS and the County to work together to come up with a plan to help address the lack of participation by employees to manage their health care.

Chairman Edge inquired if the county can mandate employees to participate in the managed care services. Dr. Weiser indicated incentives can be offered to encourage employees to take advantage of these services. In addition, the County could require employees to participate in the managed care services.

Commissioner Henley inquired if some of the increases could be a result of doctors scheduling patients for visits that may be unnecessary. He also inquired if BCBS tracks to see if this is happening, and what is being done about it. Dr. Weiser said BCBS does look into this if it sees a trend.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:45AM.

Clerk