MINUTES

**METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT BOARD**

**MEDICAL & LIFE COMMITTEE**

**September 8, 2014**

The Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board’s Medical & Life Committee met on Monday, September 8, 2014 in the Sonny West Conference Room, Howard Office Building, 700 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members present: Chair: Jerry Hall; Vice-Chair: Stephanie Bailey; Members: \*Charles D. Clariday, Veronica T. Frazier and B.R. Hall, Sr.

Member Richard Riebeling was unable to be present.

Others present: Christina Hickey, Metro Human Resources, Nicki Eke, Attorney, Metro Legal Department and Dr. Susan Warner, Civil Service Medical Examiner.

Christina Hickey called the meeting to order and stated the first order of business is to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Medical and Life Committee and opened the floor to nominations.

B.R. Hall nominated Jerry Hall for Chair. Stephanie Bailey seconded. A vote was taken on the nomination for Committee Chair and was approved without objection.

\*Denotes the arrival of Doug Clariday.

Veronica Frazier nominated Stephanie Bailey for Vice-Chair. B.R. Hall seconded. A vote was taken on the nomination for Committee Vice-Chair and was approved without objection.

# **BENEFIT BOARD ITEMS**

The Human Resources staff submitted the following for the Committee’s consideration and appropriate action:

Christina Hickey noted that item 2 has been withdrawn.

1. Self-insured Choice Fund plan appeal – Request for coverage for cataract surgery/lens.

Christina Hickey reported to the Board that a member’s dependent participating in the self-insured Choice Fund plan administered by Cigna Healthcare was denied for a request for coverage for cataract surgery and lens. She stated that this request and first level grievance for this care were denied and the member has submitted the appeal and related documentation. Information from Cigna Healthcare regarding their determination on the first level appeal has also been supplied.

The individual and her dependent were present.

Paul Huffman, Cigna, was present.

The individual discussed the procedure and her husband’s current state and why this particular procedure (laser) was recommended by the physician.

The Committee discussed whether or not there was a second opinion, the effects of the procedure, what Cigna will pay for and this particular procedure (laser) still being considered experimental.

Paul Huffman indicated that this procedure is reviewed yearly by the Medical Committee and they make the determination.

There was discussion of the procedure (laser) being considered experimental due to changes in the equipment used to perform laser surgery.

The Committee discussed the cost of this procedure, what Cigna would/did pay for and industry standards with regards to laser surgery.

B.R. Hall moved to pay for the lens and the laser surgery. Stephanie Bailey seconded.

Nicki Eke, Legal Department requested clarification on the motion. She stated that legally it is what the physician bills, and the procedure they billed for that they are reimbursed for, not for a procedure they did not perform and for which they did not bill for.

After discussion of what was billed, ($5,800 for the lens) and what Cigna would pay for on a regular lens surgery, a vote was taken on the motion to pay whatever the cost of the regular lens that Cigna would have paid for and the cost of the laser surgery for this case only and the Board approved without objection.

1. Self-insured Choice Fund plan appeal – Request for coverage for genetic testing.

This item was withdrawn.

 With nothing further presented, the meeting adjourned accordingly.

ATTEST: APPROVED:

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Veronica T. Frazier, Director Jerry Hall, Chair

#### Human Resources Medical & Life Committee