

MINUTES

METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT BOARD

MEDICAL & LIFE COMMITTEE

October 17, 2017

The Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board's Medical & Life Committee met on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 in the Sonny West Conference Room, Howard Office Building, 700 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee at approximately 10:18 a.m.

Committee Members present: Committee Chair Jerry Hall; Vice-Chair: Christine Bradley; Members: Stephanie Bailey, B.R. Hall, Sr. and Talia Lomax-O'dneal. Alternate: Edna J. Jones and Shannon B. Hall.

Others present: Christina Hickey, Metro Human Resources and Nicki Eke, Attorney, Metro Legal Department.

Committee Chair Jerry Hall called the meeting to order and informed those present that this Committee only makes a recommendation to the full Board for consideration.

BENEFIT BOARD ITEMS

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

1. Medical care appeal – Employee from Public Defender.

The employee and his spouse were present.

Paul Huffman, Cigna, was present.

Christina Hickey reported to the Committee that they are seeking to have a birth at a birthing facility called Baby and Company which is not in network with Cigna. She stated that they are asking that this be considered in-network for the birth.

There was discussion of any birthing centers in-network with Cigna.

Paul Huffman stated that midwifery options associated with hospitals are in-network. He stated that they have met with Baby and Company before and they were much higher than the normal rate for in network hospitals.

The spouse stated that they have an outline from Baby and Company that outlines the out of network costs versus in-network and they are associated with Vanderbilt. She stated that in network with Cigna would be approximately \$4,900 and out of network is still cheaper.

The employee reviewed Cigna's cost at a hospital and the different medical insurance companies that have Baby and Company as an in-network provider.

The Committee brought up emergent care plans that the company has in place.

The employee and spouse stated that they are comfortable with Baby and Company and have done research on the facility, statistics, the emergency care plans and their relationship/agreement with Vanderbilt.

The Committee discussed negotiated/discounted rates.

Paul Huffman stated that the network contractors met with Baby and Company several months ago and they could not come to an agreement, but are open to negotiations with the rates Cigna offered. He also stated that the rates were in line with what was offered to other hospitals.

There was some discussion regarding if there is anything similar to this facility in Cigna's network other than hospitals and how this facility is much cheaper than a hospital.

The spouse described the differences between this facility and a hospital. She stated that there are less interventions, no charges for an epidural, no iv medications, no continuous monitoring and no doctor. She stated that the facility uses midwives and there is no overnight stay.

There was some discussion regarding what Cigna would pay and what the member pays.

Edna Jones moved to approve Baby and Company as in network for this particular member only based on the specific facts in this case. B.R. Hall seconded and the Committee approved with Stephanie Bailey abstaining.

It was noted that in the event that the spouse goes into birth beforehand, the Board's action should still stand, however, the employee may be liable and the claim re-adjudicated.

With nothing further presented, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Shannon B. Hall, Director
Human Resources

Jerry Hall, Chair
Medical & Life Committee