

MINUTES

METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT BOARD

MEDICAL & LIFE COMMITTEE

January 30, 2024

The Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board's Medical & Life Committee met on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, in the Sonny West Conference Room, Howard Office Building, 700 2nd Avenue South, Nashville, TN at approximately 10:37 a.m.

Committee Members present: Chair: Harold W. Finch, II; Members: Christine Bradley and Edna J. Jones. Alternate(s): Shannon B. Hall and Jonathan Puckett.

Vice-Chair Gilbert Gonzales and Committee Members G. Thomas Curtis and B.R. Hall, Sr. were unable to be present.

Benefit Board Members present: Robert Weaver

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

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

1. Public Comment Period

A maximum of five (5) persons who write their names on the sign-up sheet provided at the meeting will be allowed to comment on matters that are germane to items on the Agenda. Comments are limited to a maximum of two (2) minutes per person. To provide comment, you must sign up prior to the beginning of the meeting.

There were no public comments.

2. Appeal of pensioner's dependent's dental coverage - Pensioner from Finance.

Christina Hickey reported to the Committee that pensioner James L. Lee, Jr. retired effective 2/16/2013 from the Finance Department and at the time of retirement, Mr. Lee elected single dental coverage. She stated that in 2018, Mr. Lee reached out to Metro HR and requested to add his spouse to Metro's dental plan, which was denied as she could not be added to the coverage because he did not add her at the time of his retirement or due to an eligible change in status. She stated that during subsequent annual enrollments, Mr. Lee requested to add his spouse to Metro's dental insurance and those requests were denied as she did not have a qualifying eligible change in status event that would allow her to be added to the coverage. Ms. Hickey stated Mr. Lee has asked to appeal Human Resources decision to deny his request to add his spouse to Metro's dental coverage.

The pensioner was not present.

Dylan Lynch, Human Resources staff, was present for any questions.

There was some discussion of a form letter in the record from Blue Cross Blue Shield, the dependent not being covered under medical or dental prior to the pensioners retirement and using retirement as a qualifying event to add her to the medical plan. There was also some discussion of the election forms and violating the guidelines for adding or deleting a dependent.

Jonathan Puckett moved to deny the appeal to add the dependent to the dental coverage. Shannon Hall seconded, and the Committee approved without objection.

3. Self-insured Cigna HRA plan appeal - Disability pensioner from Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, (MNPS) - insertion of peripheral nerve neurostimulator electrode through skin (procedure code 64555).

Christina Hickey reported to the Committee that a disability pensioner from MNPS, participating in the self-insured Cigna HRA plan was denied coverage of the insertion of peripheral nerve neurostimulator electrode through skin (procedure code 64555). She stated this was denied as the Cigna medical policy states that this procedure is considered experimental, investigational, and not medically necessary. Ms. Hickey stated the dependent and Spine & Pain Physicians Surgery Center LLC, as the dependent's authorized representative, are appealing the Cigna HRA plan denial. Spine & Pain Physicians Surgery Center LLC supplied documentation on their appeal and Cigna has also supplied documentation on the denial.

The disability pensioner was not present.

Paul Huffman, Cigna, was present for any questions.

There was some discussion regarding the medical policy and when this procedure will come back up for review.

Shannon Hall moved to deny the appeal based on the facts and circumstances of this case. Jonathan Puckett seconded, and the Committee approved without objection.

With nothing further presented, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Shannon B. Hall, Director
Human Resources**

**Harold W. Finch, II, Chair
Medical & Life Committee**