



***EHA Board Briefs
May 2016***

Welcome to *EHA Board Briefs*, a forum to provide summary information to EHA participants about topics addressed by or of current interest to the EHA Board of Directors.

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EHA to Develop Ongoing Communication to EHA Members:

At the March 22, 2016 meeting, the EHA board discussed the desire to provide additional information to EHA participating groups and individuals regarding decisions and direction of the EHA. The objective of such communication is to inform and also better help participants plan and respond to EHA activities. It is hoped that such communication will result in a closer relationship between the EHA and its participants. This document represents the first example of such communication.

Modifications to the Dependent Eligibility Verification Program (DEV) Adopted:

The EHA Board addressed the DEV program at the March 22, 2016 and made changes to respond to input from several groups and EHA Board members.

The first change is to conduct the DEV once a year rather than on a quarterly basis. It is intended that this change will reduce the administrative burden on school districts while at the same time retaining the benefit of assured eligibility verification. This change will be put in place immediately.

The second change is to eliminate the DEV requirement of verification for a child born to a member who is currently enrolled with family coverage and the medical claim for the birth was covered by BCBSNE.

EHA to Provide Information on Health Expenses:

The EHA Board approved a pilot program to provide medical cost and trend information to several EHA groups. BCBSNE and the EHA Consultant were directed to develop the information to be provided. The intent is to provide the groups with information useful to helping understand cost drivers and potential ways to address them. The board requested particular attention be given to eliminating any concerns about member privacy and was assured that only summary data would be provided. BCBSNE will be delivering the information and providing appropriate consultative support to the groups.

EHA Update on Current Year Finances:

The EHA consultant receives monthly financial information on the EHA claims, premium and other expenses and monitors this and other related information, such as medical inflation, on a continual basis for the EHA plan. The consultant reported to the EHA Board at the March 2016 meeting the progress of the finances for the 2015-16 year. In summary, the cost is progressing as planned for the current year.

BCBSNE Report to EHA on Pharmacy Trends:

The Director of Pharmacy at BCBSNE presented to the EHA Board a detailed update on the Pharmacy Benefit Program. Included in the update was a discussion of several actions being taken to keep medicine affordable, including utilization management, specialty pharmacy contracting, pharmacy network discounts and manufacturer rebates and actions with compound drugs. Also discussed were additional opportunities to address future costs. Pharmacy inflation has been substantially higher in 2014 and 2015 than in recent previous years.

EHA Request for Proposal (RFP) Process:

The EHA Board was given an update on the RFP process that was approved at the February 2016 Board Meeting. The RFP is for the insurer to be effective with the 2017-18 plan year. The RFP was released to selected insurers that have the size and scope to handle the EHA on March 29, 2016. It is anticipated the award will be announced in September 2016.

EHA 'Bookkeeper' Meetings Scheduled:

The EHA Bookkeeper Meetings have been scheduled beginning the week of April 18. The EHA Field Representative and BCBSNE representatives will be traveling throughout the state to conduct the meetings and provide renewal and administrative information to the groups for the upcoming 2016-17 plan year. Representatives from all EHA subgroups are invited to attend the meetings.

The EHA also received updates on field service activities of the EHA Field Representative and the BCBSNE service team.