

**Minutes of the ECHIP Executive Board Meeting  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
ZOOM MEETING**

**Present: Roll Call of Board Members:**

Walter Willett, Amanda Backhaus, Nancy Cole, Joni Weglein

**Not Present:** Kelly Vachon (on vacation during this meeting.)

**ECHIP Administrative Staff Present:** Joe Spurgeon, Larisa Carr

**The Board Meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by Board Chair, Walter Willett**

**Approval of minutes:**

**MOTION:** Joni Weglein motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented  
**SECOND:** Amanda Backhaus  
**VOTE:** Unanimous  
**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**Additions to Agenda:**

**MOTION:** Joni Weglein motioned to add the RFP for health care to the agenda of all remaining meetings  
**SECOND:** Nancy Cole  
**VOTE:** Unanimous  
**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**CIGNA EMBARC Program:**

- EMBARC is a cost share program billed over Cigna's entire book of business at \$0.99 per member per month for groups who elect to participate. EMBARC is benefit protection for two, VERY expensive specialty medications. Currently ECHIP opts out of EMBARC.
- Cigna provided early alert that there is possibly additional gene therapy drugs being added to EMBARC but these additions have not been determined yet.
- Currently EMBARC covers Luxturna – 1x med cost of \$800-900K treats pediatric blindness
- Currently EMBARC covers Zolgensma – 1x cost of \$2M for spinal muscular atrophy
- Approximate annual admin cost would be \$53,460 based on ECHIP's 4,500 (approx.)

- Dependents would also be covered under this program
- Would it help to protect against stop loss deficits?
- Would be a yearly contract with them – could opt out at anytime
- The group decided to opt out for 2022-23 year – will re-visit in six months by having Mike Donnelly from Cigna come out to do a presentation

**Medical and RX Audit:**

- The Audit team met last week
- Most findings were “one off issues”
- CIGNA agreed with the findings
- CIGNA agreed ECHIP’s audit process and number of claims pulled/reviewed should be updated in the contract language for future audits
- Advised Cigna that ECHIP will be going through an exploratory process this year which would result in allowing ECHIP to make comparisons with other carriers

**Everside Health Follow-Up Discussion:**

- Everside health is a preventative care/lab/rx model that supports onsite or travelling nurse models for clients
- Discussion around additional questions and follow-up
- Create a program to fit the group’s needs
- Discussion around brick and mortar sites and black bag nurses
- Could help with the preventative support piece
- Ability to do onboarding and employee physicals and occupational health visits
- Definitely a “plus” on the behavioral side – Everside could provide LSW’s on site
- The accessibility piece is a big driving point
- What will the cost look like?
- The group agreed that Larisa should move forward to create different scenarios to present to Everside so they can produce pricing packages to best meet the needs of ECHIP

**EAP Renewal Projection:**

- Discussion around the proposed three-year contract (July 2022 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025) – would hold the \$16.65 price for three years (up 2% from current cost of 16.32)

**MOTION:** Nancy Cole motioned to add EAP to the next meeting agenda  
**SECOND:** Joni Weglein  
**VOTE:** Unanimous  
**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ECHIP Wellness:**

- The group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month – will appoint Wellness Champions
- Will also send out weekly updates
- Moving forward with CIMT – Larisa preparing draft marketing for staff
- Budget for CIMT allows for 22 scans at each location
- Determining which gift cards to purchase based on admin fees. AMEX no longer available through Cigna so checking on ordering through EASTCONN account for both AMEX and Amazon or through Cigna for Visa or Amazon.
- More discussion at next meeting on Wellness Challenge for end of year
- Larisa sending out weekly wellness marketing flyers on EAP and Cigna programs

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** Joni Weglein motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 pm  
**SECOND:** Walt Willett  
**VOTE:** Unanimous  
**ABSTENTIONS:** None

Respectfully Submitted

Carol Klemyk