

[In these minutes: 2011-2012 AHC Student Health Benefit Plan Rate, Voluntary Dental Plan Update, Future Agenda Items]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2011

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

488 CHILD REHAB CENTER

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Eric Moeker (chair), Samantha Berget, Brandon Burk, Sean Corvin, Patrick Day, Mark DeRocher, Grant Hennington, Kit Johnson, Erin Kasper, Chase Lembeck, Eden Sonn, Paul Syverson, Josie Thole, Lindsey Tischer

REGRETS: Dr. Barbara Brandt, Junaid Ghouse, Leah Tacheny

ABSENT: Lynn Seuer

GUESTS: Sue Jackson, director, Office of Student Health Benefits

OTHERS ATTENDING: Kathy Nelson (COGS), Barry Park

I). Eric Moeker welcomed those present and convened the meeting. He then welcomed Lindsey Tischer, the newest member of the committee, and asked that she introduce herself and to say a few words, which she did.

II). Mr. Moeker welcomed Sue Jackson, director, Office of Student Health Benefits, who was invited to share AHC Student Health Benefit Plan rate information and information concerning the Voluntary Dental Plan. Ms. Jackson began by stating that the Office of Student Health Benefits administers the Student Health Benefit Plan, the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan, the Graduate Assistant Health Plan, the Student Health Benefit Plan for International Students, the Student Health Benefit Plan for International Scholars, and the Resident and Fellow Health Plan (Medical School, School of Dentistry, College of Veterinary Medicine).

The new Voluntary Dental Plan, noted Ms. Jackson, will be implemented as of fall semester 2011. A handout outlining coverage levels of the plan was distributed to members.

The 2010-2011 cost of the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan is currently \$1,294/semester. and The rates for 2011-2012 will be \$1,342/semester, which represents a 4½% increase. The increase is largely due to increased claims utilization. The University worked hard to keep the increase as low as possible.

Because AHC Student Health Benefit Plan already includes a preventive dental benefit there will be some overlap between the Voluntary Dental Plan and the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan. Approximately \$49/semester of the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan goes towards the preventive dental benefit, which is administered by Boynton Health Service (BHS). For \$8 per member per month, students covered under the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan are eligible to receive two dental check-ups, x-rays, and cleanings per year.

Ms. Jackson noted that in response to student demand that the University offer a voluntary dental plan, the University issued a Request for Proposal (RFP). A decision was made to award the contract to Met Life. The rate for the Voluntary Dental Plan will be \$28.25/month. Under the new Voluntary Dental Plan, check-ups, x-rays and cleanings are covered at 100% and restorative care is covered at 50% or 80%, depending on the procedure, up to \$1,000 per year.

Ms. Jackson explained that the Voluntary Dental Plan is experimental in that it will depend on how many students enroll as to whether the plan continues to exist. In addition, besides enrollment, the cost of the plan after the second year (currently there is a two-year rate guarantee) will also factor into whether the plan will continue to be offered. Because the Voluntary Dental Plan is experimental, preventive dental coverage in the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan will continue to be offered because the University does not want to take this benefit away only to find out that the Voluntary Dental Plan is unsustainable for enrollment or premium reasons.

The Voluntary Dental Plan is not a mandatory plan; however, students who enroll in the plan in the fall of 2011 will be required to commit to being enrolled in the plan for the full year. The cost of the Voluntary Dental Plan will be \$169.50/semester or \$339/year.

A member asked whether students will be automatically enrolled in the plan and have to opt out if they are not interested in enrolling. No, stated Ms. Jackson, students will need to make an active election if they are interesting in enrolling in the plan. A notice will be sent to students announcing the Voluntary Dental Plan beginning in April.

Given the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan already has a preventive dental benefit component, will there be adverse selection in the first year of the Voluntary Dental Plan because students who need restorative dental work will likely enroll, asked a member? Yes, there would likely be adverse selection resulting in high claims in the first year and this is to be expected. Ms. Jackson reminded members that the Voluntary Dental Plan is being offered University-wide across all the campuses, which translates into the possibility of over 60,000 enrollees. The University and the plan administrator both realize that the first year has the potential of being catastrophic in terms of claims. The Office of Student Health Benefits plans to continue to monitor the existing preventive dental plan in the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan in addition to the new dental plan to determine which is the better option for AHC students.

Will the rate for the voluntary plan be \$28.25 or will that rate vary depending on how many students enroll, asked a member? The rate will not vary, noted Ms. Jackson, this is the guaranteed rate for the first two years of the program.

A member asked whether students in the plan will be required to use BHS. Ms. Jackson stated that the primary clinic on campus will be BHS, but arrangements have also been made to include the School of Dentistry Faculty Practice Clinic in the plan. In addition, Met Life has a network of providers, which students can access in order to get in-network coverage benefits.

Will going to BHS be cheaper for students than going to one of the other in-network providers, asked a member? Ms. Jackson stated that the other in-network providers may have deeper discounts than offered through BHS. A goal of the RFP process was to ensure that BHS and the School of Dentistry Faculty Practice Clinic would both be considered in-network providers. The University also requested as part of the RFP that BHS and the School of Dentistry Faculty Practice Clinic be reimbursed similarly to other provider contracts they participate with such as HealthPartners. It was important for the University to know that BHS and the School of Dentistry Faculty Practice Clinic would have their costs covered.

What are the eligibility criteria for students to enroll in the plan, asked a member? Ms. Jackson stated that students paying student fees and who are taking six or more credits are eligible to enroll in the Voluntary Dental Plan. Students can sign up for the plan regardless if they are covered by the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan or not.

Moving on, Ms. Jackson reported that the Office of Student Health Benefits is putting together a student health benefit consultative committee, which will start meeting in March. The committee will meet two or three times per year and take up issues like health care reform and its impact on the Student Health Benefit Plan. The goal is to keep the plan solid in order to meet students' needs. Ms. Jackson welcomed any AHC SCC members interested in serving on this committee to attend the first meeting on March 25.

What are in-network providers as opposed to out-of-network providers, asked a member? Is Lake Superior Dental Associates an in-network provider? Ms. Jackson explained that in-network providers are contracted with Met Life and this also includes BHS and the School of Dentistry Faculty Practice Clinic. She added that she is unsure whether Lake Superior Dental Associates is an in-network provider but will check on this and report back to the committee. UPDATE: While Met Life has contracted providers in the Duluth area, Lake Superior Dental Associates (LSDA) is not contracted with them at this time. Ms. Jackson has notified Met Life that they are to contact LSDA to negotiate a contract with them.

A member asked if the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan rate increase of 4½% is confidential or whether this figure can be shared with other students. The increase is final and can be shared with other students, noted Ms. Jackson, however, she stated that she is still working on calculating the new dependent coverage rates.

In response to a question, Ms. Jackson explained that if students purchase the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan coverage for spring semester, coverage extends through the summer. Also, for students graduating in May, the University has negotiated with Blue Cross Blue Shield to offer four individual plans that students who are on the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan can purchase without going through underwriting. While these plans do not offer the same benefit design as the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan, students do not have to worry about being denied coverage for a pre-existing condition in order to get coverage.

Ms. Jackson thanked the committee for their time, and, in turn, Mr. Moeker thanked Ms. Jackson for her presentation.

III). Members unanimously approved the January 26, 2011 meeting minutes.

IV). Ms. Dempsey reported that she is working on scheduling Vice President Kathy O'Brien or someone from her office to come to the March meeting to share information on the impact light rail is expected to have on the campus. She asked if members had other ideas for agenda items for either the March or April meeting. A member suggested getting an update from Dr. Judith Buchanan on OneHealth. Hearing no other suggestions, Ms. Dempsey stated that members who have agenda items for future meetings should send them to her via email.

V). Hearing no further business, Mr. Moeker adjourned the meeting, and thanked members for attending.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate