

**Town of West Boylston IAC
Minutes of September 29, 2011:**

Members

Marcia Cairns
Jack McCormick (absent)
Judy Van Hoven
Barbara Deschenes
Paula Menendez
Cande Kristoff
Mike Coveney (absent)
Pat Fanning
Jim Bartlett

EBS Foran: Ken Lombardi
Town: Shirley Keddy

No meeting minutes were developed from the July 20, 2011 meeting (no quorum so no meeting held)

Agenda distributed, discussion items concerned the updated claims which continue at a higher level during the last few months, a review of the 2012 Senior plan renewals which were favorable, and comments were made about the recent legislation.

HPHC claims through June 2011 show significant trends, largely in part due to a new large claim that is close to \$200,000 which is likely poolable under HPHC's renewal formula. This may produce a positive impact from a cost perspective, but it was noted that this could also cause the Town to see a trend like increase (about 10% or so) for Fy13. The group discussed that continued monitoring would be critical to discussions about strategy going forward.

The Senior plans are renewing at the same cost for the Fallon Senior plan, a small decrease for the THP HMO Prime and a slight increase of 3% for the HPHC Enhance. Overall the group felt this was good news and a motion was made and approved without discussion to accept the renewals as presented.

There was also general discussion about the new Municipal Health Care law concerning Section 21a and it was noted that the Town, specifically the Board of Selectman and Town Managers office has not yet indicated its status of the new law and the potential impact. The group was advised though that under the regulations, the Town could adopt the local option through a Board Vote, not subject to collective bargaining, and could leverage the co-pays up to the Navigator style of co-pays so there is likely enough room in the plan design to eliminate any potential trend increase of about 10%.

The IAC members reiterated their interest in providing suggestions on cost saving programs to the Town and being directly involved in the final decision making of any changes. There was a considerable amount of focus on the part of the group to work collaboratively on managing rising health care costs. To that end the IAC has suggested continuous monthly meetings to ensure all options are explored prior to the typical renewal season in early 2012. Ideas such as looking at an RFP were also discussed to ensure the plan remains cost effective for members and the Town.

Two meetings were set for October 26th and November 30th.