

MINUTES

PCF OVERSIGHT BOARD

January 8, 2009

WOMAN'S HOSPITAL
BATON ROUGE, LA.

Mr. Clark Cosse', Chairman, convened the meeting of the Patient's Compensation Fund Oversight Board, at 6:30 PM on Thursday January 8, 2009, at the Woman's Hospital Corporate Board Room in Baton Rouge.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Mr. Clark Cosse'	Dr. Melanie Firmin
Mr. Kent Guidry	Mr. Joe Donchess
Dr. Van Culotta	Mrs. Dionne Viator
Dr. Katharine Rathbun	Dr. John LaCorte

Board Members absent:

Mr. Manuel DePascual

Others present:

Mr. Ken Schnauder	Mrs. Barbara Woodard	Dr.
John Lemoine	Mr. Dave Woolridge	

Mr. Cosse' called the meeting to order. Mr. Cosse' asked that the record show five board members attended and a quorum was present. Mr. Cosse' welcomed the guests to the meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Cosse' asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

Mr. Cosse' welcomed the two new board members to the PCF Oversight Board. They were sworn in by Dave Woolridge.

Mr. Cosse' called for the approval of the November minutes. Mr. Guidry moved for the minutes to be approved with no corrections. Mr. Donchess seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes.

Mr. Cosse' asked for the financial updates. Mrs. Woodard explained that the budget expenditures as shown on the financial sheet were as expected and the overall operating budget appeared adequate. Mrs. Woodard explained it was probable that a BA7 would need to be submitted to OPB for approximately \$15,000,000 to continue through the end of the fiscal year. The BA7 would be discussed further during the claims manager report. Mr. Cosse' briefly explained to the new board members the budget and BA7 process. Mr. Cosse' then asked if there were any other comments on the budget. There were none.

Mr. Cosse' asked for the computer application update. Mrs. Woodard explained that significant progress has been made within the past few months as we neared the end date of the contract. All staff were adapting to the new computer system and working out the kinks every day.

Mrs. Viator asked if the PCF felt like the contractor had fulfilled the obligations of the contract and delivered an adequate, working computer system and if the information from the system was accurate. Mr. Cosse' requested that an information technology update be provided at the February meeting to include detailed information regarding the contract and the new computer systems' overall efficiency.

Mr. Cosse' asked for the claims manager report. Mr. Schnauder stated that through December 31, 2008 claim expenses totaled over \$58,000,000. Last fiscal year at this time, expenditures were around \$60,000,000. Mr. Schnauder advised all but \$1.7 million in approved claims had been paid and reminded the board there was an expected settlement due in 18 months that totaled \$1,250,000 leaving only \$600,000 in approved but unpaid claims. Mr. Schnauder stated he believed a BA7 in the amount of \$15,000,000 would carry the claims budget to the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Schnauder reported the year ended with a pending claim total of 5982 which is the lowest claim total in over 10 years. Panel filings remained down with approximately 1600 for the year, making it 3 consecutive years in which frequency has been down.

Mrs. Viator made the motion for the board to approve the PCF submitting a BA7 in the amount of \$15,000,000. Dr. Culotta seconded the motion.

Mr. Cosse' asked if there were any other questions or comments on the claims report. There were none.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of the CNA and Sitter hourly pay rates.

Mr. Schnauder stated the fee schedule is inadequate in some regions of the state and it was difficult to find a CNA service provider that would work for the scheduled rate of \$11 per hour. The average rate requested is \$14.00 per hour. Mr. Schnauder asked if the board would consider approving that the PCF could negotiate or raise the current fee schedule for this type of service. Dr. Culotta asked if this was allowed for this service would this affect the rate of pay for other services. Mrs. Viator questioned whether there should be a cap placed on the amount that could be paid. Dr. Firmin suggested to the board the PCF stay with the set fee schedule and adjust the hourly rate according to the regional rates only in the event that care could not be obtained at the current rate. The statute states that fees should be reasonable and customary, and the rules call for the use of the fee schedule. Mr. Schnauder stated there cases where there is no family member to provide the service and it was difficult and sometimes impossible to find a service provider for the current fee schedule rate of \$11 per hour. Dr. Firmin made the motion for the Board to grant the PCF staff the ability to negotiate, in some regional areas, a reasonable and customary fee for CNA and sitter services if such is not available at the fee scheduled rate. Dr. Rathbun seconded the motion. There was a verbal vote which was unanimous.

Mr. Cosse stated that a letter should be drafted for Mrs. LeBlanc's signature to the Workers Compensation notifying them of this problem with the current fee schedule.

Mr. Cosse' asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Mr. Cosse' thanked the guest for attending and the General Session was adjourned.

The Board moved into the Executive Session.