

**GENESEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
420 W. FIFTH AVENUE
FLINT, MI 48503
RETIREE HEALTH CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 5, 2011**

RETIREES PRESENT:

D. Lee, Chairman; N. Cooper, G. Kennedy, M. Marcot, P. Tate. *Via teleconference:* S. Higashi, M. Larkins

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

UNION MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Simonds, Teamsters

STAFF PRESENT:

S. Mason

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

- I. Member Attendance – Introductions
Members present introduced themselves, also introductions of the new members.

- II. Public Participation
None

- III. Approval of/Additions to Agenda
Kennedy requested the items “Feedback on FOIA” and “How the Committee can be effective for retirees” be added to the agenda. Kennedy moved, Simonds supported a motion to accept the agenda with these additions.
Motion carried.

- IV. Approval of Minutes from 3-3-11 Meeting
Kennedy stated that, under item 5, there was no follow-up necessary. Simonds confirmed that there are no agreements missing. It seems there are because only two agreements have been formally recognized by the Teamsters since 1999. Kennedy moved, Simonds supported a motion to accept the 3-3-11 minutes with the preceding notation.
Motion carried.

V. Old Business

- a. Update on court appeal for deferred retirees. S. Mason stated that she has no new information regarding this appeal. It is still ongoing and she will check on the status for the next committee meeting.

VI. New Business

- a. Introduction of New Members – was taken care of at the start of the meeting
- b. How proposed budget cuts might impact retiree health care – Simonds stated that everything is in legislative committee right now, so there is no solid information on the budget. Governor Snyder has stated he wants to present a finished budget by May 31, 2011, so there will most likely be more information by the July committee meeting.
- c. Feedback on FOIA – Lee stated that the information was received from S. Mason's office. He stated that he is looking into ways the information will be useful to the committee. No e-mail addresses were available for distribution, which would be a very cost-effective and quick way to distribute information to retirees. Higashi will develop a one-page informational sheet to hopefully be sent out with the insurance information packets in the fall, requesting all retirees' e-mail addresses. S. Mason will check to see if it will be possible to include the sheet with the fall mailings. Higashi will maintain a database of the e-mail addresses once they are collected.
- d. How the Committee can be effective to retirees. Larkins stated she is glad the committee exists because it gives retirees a voice on how they are treated and will hopefully be effective in guarding retiree's benefits. A focus of the committee should be contacting retirees, getting their feedback and making sure they know they are represented. This item should be a permanent agenda item as the committee will always be striving to better serve the retirees.

VII. Member Comments

Simonds requested that S. Mason look to see if there is any way the insurance provider selection forms can be returned electronically. Last year there was very little turnaround time between receiving information on the different plans and the deadline for selection, particularly for out-of-state retirees. If there was a way to make the selections electronically before the deadline, and then return the signed forms in the mail, it would give retirees more time to examine the different plans being offered. Simonds also suggested putting the different plans on the Agency website so people could look them over prior to receiving the information in the mail.

Simonds also volunteered to contact Jeff Cyphert, who puts together the retiree newsletter sent out by Genesee County, to see if he would include an item requesting CMH retirees to contact Higashi with their e-mail information. This might be a good way to start compiling a list without having to wait for the insurance packets to go out from CMH in the fall.

VIII. Public Comment
None

IX. Next meeting date; items for the agenda

Next meeting set for 7/7/11 at 10 a.m.

Items for Agenda:

1. Update on court appeal for deferred retirees
2. Update on Teamsters lawsuit
3. Proposed budget effect on retiree healthcare
4. Update on having items included in the County retirees newsletter
5. Flyer for mailings
6. How can the committee be effective for retirees?

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am

Submitted by Lisa Hutchins, Executive Assistant