

GENESEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
420 W. FIFTH AVENUE
FLINT MI 48503
RETIREE HEALTH CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 1, 2009

PROVISIONAL MINUTES

Note: These minutes are submitted in the absence of Ms. Sue Warth, secretary to the committee for purposes of maintaining a record of proceedings pending her return.

RETIREES PRESENT:

P. Casey, G. Kennedy, N. Bartkiw, P. Jordan, *Chair*, D. Lee, M. Marcot, G. Stimson\
Via Phone conference: S. Higashi

RETIREES ABSENT:

L. Smith, L. Allen, P. Primel, R. Sprague.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

A. Bailey

UNION MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Simonds, L. Hamilton

STAFF PRESENT:

S. Mason

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

Added some gathering of further questions: where does the Retiree Health Benefit Fund stand in light of it being unfunded in 2006 and 2007; what is the history of funding for that fund; how many took the healthcare buyout in '07(?); and a bunch of insurance related questions which G. Kennedy handed out (previously e-mailed to the committee).

Approval of Minutes of

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted with one correction.

Comment from Board Member Archie Bailey

A. Bailey thanked us for changing the meeting days to he could attend; mentioned that we have the support of two and a half Board members; and we need to have supportive data to get any changes; he sees it as his role to get information for us; and the Board is not anti-retiree, but pro-administration.

Update on the Declarative Suit

It's only been informational so far with answers from each party; the preliminary hearing is scheduled for 12-1, 9:30 am; and the six people involved in the suit are from both unions and non-union. Some committee members plan to attend.

Geoff Kennedy's Contact with the County Health Department

CMH retirees are the only group of County retirees to have their health benefits cut; others have avoided it, because the county is "tied to (it's) contract language" (the person didn't know if CMH had contract language that authorizes the employer to make changes after the employee retires); CMH withdrew from the count pool, which precipitation may have been precipitated by the county's move toward self-insurance; the county pay the difference between the co-pay terms at the time of retirement and the co-pay required at the pharmacy; didn't know why CMH took over the benefit administration in 2003. G. Kennedy passed out the report and questions raised by it (previously e-mailed to the committee).

S. Mason read language from the county's ASFCME and Teamsters contracts of '05 that made it clear that benefits could not be changed after one had retired. Lori was going to follow up on the question of whether or not that was new language. D. Simonds stated that she will follow up with Les Barrett.

There was discussion about who separated whom from the county risk pool, and a motion was passed to seek a formal responses to the reason for separation. A. Bailey was going to follow up with the county on that. N. Bartkiw commented that, while he thought it was important to get an answer to the question, but he didn't think the management was out to do us in, although D. Lee felt we are being misled. G. Stimson wondered if it were possible to return to the county pool. G. Kennedy felt that we are getting screwed and that it is important to know whether or not we are. A, Bailey mentioned that the sense of getting screwed is news to him. S. Higashi pointed out that CMH ended the year with an excess, the same year benefits were cut again, and wondered if such could be redirected into the Retiree Healthcare Fund.

There was a discussion on current insurance rates which Sue had and shared verbally and will sent P. Jordan a copy. A. Bailey mentioned that the county saved one million on prescription cost alone. G. Stimson asked if anything could be done in concert with other CMH to increase out pool size. P. Casey said that a lot of CMH's don't have health care, but she will follow up with the Mental Health Association.

Discussion about insurance related questions that G. Kennedy had passed around. A. Biale

suggested that he could bring in the county HR person to answer a compiled list of questions. A motion was passed to forward to J. DeLay the questions about the history of funding for the Retirees Health Fund, seeking an answer by the next meeting. It was pointed out that we submitted a bunch of questions in August for which we have yet received answers, nor has the actuarial report been received yet.

A question was raised why it took so long to get this committee started. S. Mason said that part of the delay was getting the information out to everyone, then the ballots out and back, and contacting everyone else again.

Meeting adjourned at 11.40 a.m.

Submitted by: Geoff Kennedy