



BENEFITS COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 2, 2019

A. Call to Order

Christine Winterle called the meeting to order. Christine introduced Interim VP of Human Resources, Dr. Michael Shanahan. The committee was asked to introduce themselves.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Ruth Barnaba, Mike Dimmick, Lerina Chmura, Tsung Lee, Leann Pell, Judy Dolan, Mary Jayne Conway, Becky McCluskey, Steve Spear, Jean Ruff, Teresa Laughlin, Barbara Baer, Lesley Williams,

Ex-Officio Members Present: Veronica Sadowski

Members Absent: Cheryl Ashour, Roberta Johnson, Jenny Ferrero

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Wendy Corbin

Guest: Michael Muheisen, BrightPath Consulting Services, Inc.

D. New Business

Veronica Sadowski provided an overview of Open Enrollment for 2019/2020. CCE & PFF committee members expressed concern for new enrollees on the Anthem/Kaiser HDHP plans. New enrollees are coming to committee members expressing concern over how to use the new HDHP plans. Some suggestions were to provide more information on: how to use the HSA debit card, where to go for an RX, when to expect HSA funding and how to submit receipts for reimbursement. Dr. Shanahan asked Michael Muheisen to produce a tipsheet or FAQ. Dr. Shanahan also suggested this information to be placed on the website for employees to reference. It was also suggested that committee members refer employees to the Benefits staff to assist. Questions may be sent to the Benefits team at Benefits@palomar.edu

PACRA committee members expressed concern regarding retiree EGWP Medicare D prescription coverage. The Benefits staff was asked if it was possible to keep track of the number of escalated calls that are coming in. Veronica Sadowski responded and stated that the Benefits office had not received a high volume of calls or complaints. Although there had been some calls and once the Benefits staff explained the process the retirees were able to resolve their issues. It was stated that committee members should refer retirees experiencing issues with their RX's directly to the Benefits staff for resolution. The Benefits staff agreed to provide information on the Medicare formulary to the next meeting. Christine Winterle advised retirees be careful on how they handling retiree medical information when the retirees reach out to them. It was advised that a HIPAA release be signed prior to assisting the retiree.

PACRA committee member stated that Group I retirees are still within the bargaining unit for benefits equal to what we had when we retired. The committee member stated that they weren't informed ahead of the time regarding EGWP and mandatory enrollment in Medicare Part D. Christine Winterle responded stating that the district would reimburse retirees and there was no charge for retirees with a single income of up to \$85,000 per year. Christine stated that the district is unaware of retirees' income and who may or may not have to pay. Christine also stated that retirees may move to Kaiser during open enrollment and that our main goal is to help retirees transition. A PACRA committee member asked that the committee be informed of any changes and stated that the District needs to keep its commitment.

F. Other

Judy Dolan read a statement to Interim VP of Human Resources, Dr. Michael Shanahan and members of the Benefits Committee. Statement is attached.

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2020