

**Governmental Health Group of Rhode Island  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, August 24, 2005**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2005, at the Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road, Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

**Roll Call**

**Board of Directors**

Jane F. Correia	President	Present
Cynthia Brown	Director	Present
Shawn J. Brown	Vice-President	Present
Ron Devine	Director	Present
Miriam Goodman	Director	Excused
Nancy Lalli	Director	Excused
Robin Reasor	Director	Excused

Alternate Board Members:

Bruce Alexander	Treasurer	Present
David P. Faucher	Secretary	Present
Catherine McLeish	Alternate	Present
Robert Mushen	Alternate	Excused

**Others Present**

Lynne Dible	Town of Middletown
Robert Murray	Central Falls School Department
Kevin Walsh	Group Benefits Strategies
Ruth Lynch	Group Benefits Strategies
Jeffrey Johnson	Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI
Marc Gagnon	Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI

**Call to Order**

President Correia reported that a quorum was present. She called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Agenda**

A motion was made by B. Alexander, seconded by D. Faucher, to approve the agenda for the 8/24/05 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Secretary's Report:**

A motion was made by D. Faucher, seconded by B. Alexander, to approve the minutes of the meeting held 7/20/05. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

A motion was made by S. Brown, seconded by D. Faucher, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Discussion ensued concerning the non-payment status of Central Falls Schools and the need for an Assistant Treasurer. B. Alexander stated that payment in full was expected in September from Central Falls Schools. He noted that D. Faucher and J. Correia were authorized signatories on the bank accounts. K. Walsh suggested that the Board review the need for an Assistant Treasurer at a future meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Warrants:**

A motion was made by S. Brown, seconded by D. Faucher, to accept the August Warrant Summary and approve the September Warrant Summary. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**Insurance Update.** C. Brown stated that she would follow up with Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust concerning coverage for GHGRI Board and Committee members. B. Alexander mentioned that he was concerned about being bonded.

**Medicare Part D.** K. Walsh indicated that a single filing by GHGRI would be acceptable and filings by individual members were not required. In addition, he said that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) would perform the initial actuarial attestation for GHGRI and members were excused from having to individually contract for actuarial attestation services. K. Walsh indicated that his firm, Group Benefit Strategies (GBS) has offered to provide filing services to GHGRI for \$3,000. He also noted that he would be e-mailing all members for group and plan information for those interested in participating in the Medicare Part D filing process. Specifically, he would be seeking which plans have Medicare eligible retirees and what is the amount of the employer contribution.

A motion was made by S. Brown, seconded by C. Brown, to have GHGRI contract with GBS for no more than \$3,000 for filing services for Medicare Part D and to ask GBS to file for a thirty day extension. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Voting as One Entity.** K. Walsh indicated that, based upon the wording in the Agreement between GHGRI and BCBSRI, a single entity is defined as both the municipality and school department, if jointly rated. He noted that the five communities in the GHGRI, Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Little Compton, all are jointly rated with their respective School Departments. He said that Central Falls Schools, Woonsocket Education Department and Bristol Warren Regional Schools are separately rated and each is considered an "entity." He mentioned that any surplus would be distributed to the GHGRI entities on a pro-rata share of subscribers. The Board member represents both the municipality and the school department for those members who are jointly rated. In the absence of the Board member, the Alternate may vote in place of the Board member.

B. Alexander requested that each member receive a signed copy of the GHGRI agreement with BCBSRI. K. Walsh indicated that he would send a copy to each member.

**New Business:**

**Designation of Alternates.** A motion was made by C. Brown, seconded by S. Brown, to appoint Dr. Patricia Watkins to the Board of Directors, representing Central Falls Schools and to appoint Robert Murray as the Alternate from Central Falls Schools. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by B. Alexander, seconded by S. Brown, to appoint Dr. Ed Mara as the alternate from Bristol Warren Regional Schools. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by C. Brown, seconded by S. Brown, to appoint Anthony L. D'Acchioli as an alternate from the Woonsocket Education Department.

**Legal Services for FY 05-06.** K. Walsh indicated that Nixon Peabody LLP had been paid for services provided through June 30, 2005. He presented an engagement letter from Nixon Peabody LLP. After some discussion, a motion was made by C. Brown, seconded by S. Brown to retain the legal services of Nixon Peabody LLP on an as-needed basis at the hourly rates specified in the engagement letter and that requests for legal services are to flow from the Board of Directors through K. Walsh to Nixon Peabody. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Billing Adjustments and Membership Rosters.** K. Walsh introduced R. Lynch who explained how she generated member invoices from the on-line enrollment system. She indicated that she would be willing, upon request, to provide membership rosters to accompany the invoices. A discussion ensued concerning retroactive additions and deletions. The on-line enrollment system was not intended to serve as a billing system. BCBSRI has a separate billing system to address retroactivity and does provide retroactive information as part of its billing for the Wellness Program. M. Gagnon said that he would consult with the membership section to see what can be done about retroactivity.

J. Johnson indicated that the group viewing issue would be resolved within five days. This would limit access in the on-line enrollment system to specific groups associated with a specific member. For example, in jointly rated communities, the municipality would only be allowed to view enrollment information for its own municipal groups.

**Treasurer's Fee.** B. Alexander distributed a memorandum proposing a monthly fee of \$928.93 per month. That fee plus the FICA employer payment of \$71.07 would make the total monthly cost of Treasurer services \$1,000.00. S. Brown indicated that local accounting firms would charge \$75-125 per hour for treasury services. A motion was made by S. Brown, seconded by C. Brown to pay the Treasurer the fee as proposed in his memorandum dated August 15, 2005 and to review the hours spent by the Treasurer and the monthly fee in five months at the January, 2006 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Revised List of Board of Directors, Officers and Alternates.** J. Correia noted that this agenda item was previously addressed under Old Business.

**Agenda Break.** A motion was made by S. Brown, seconded by C. Brown to break the agenda to introduce several administrative items which had inadvertently been omitted from the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Logo.** J. Correia requested a status report on the logo for the GHGRI letter head. K. Walsh stated that he would borrow a painting of the Mt. Hope Bridge from the Town of Portsmouth to see if his graphic artist could develop the logo using the painting.

**Analysis Report.** K. Walsh distributed a Self-Funded Cost vs. Funding Analysis dated August 24, 2005. The Board reviewed the report and requested that the report be made part of the agenda for subsequent regular meetings.

**Status Reports to Governing Bodies.** C. Brown asked about the type of reports which could be provided to governing bodies to keep them informed. A discussion ensued. K. Walsh agreed to provide a high level interim status report in October. Others indicated that a meaningful report on the success of the group could not be provided until after the close of the fiscal year.

**New Members.** K. Walsh and J. Correia indicated that several communities might be interested in becoming members of the GHGRI. A discussion took place concerning limitations on growth as indicated in the Agreement with BCBSRI. K. Walsh said that he would review the conditions and provide a report at the regular meeting of the GHGRI on September 28.<sup>th</sup>

**Regular Meeting Date.** At the suggestion of J. Correia, the Board agreed to designate the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month for regular meetings. The next regular meeting will be 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2005.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn at 11:16 a.m. was made by C. Brown, seconded by S. Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
David P. Faucher, Secretary