



**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION  
**OFFICE OF GROUP BENEFITS**



**MINUTES**

**OGB POLICY AND PLANNING BOARD**

**May 9, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

**Louisiana Purchase Room  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

**I. Call to Order**

**a. Board Roll Call**

Senator Adam Bass	Present
Representative Chad Brown	Absent
Representative Kim Carver	Present – late arrival
Dr. Gwile Freeman	Present
Mr. Dannie Garrett, III	Absent
Mr. Jeremy Jackson	Absent
Mr. Frank Jobert	Present
Mr. Frank Opelka	Present
Mr. Mike Saylor	Present
Senator Jeremy Stine	Absent

**II. New Members Appointment to Board, Sen. Adam Bass, Rep. Chad Brown, Rep. Kim Carver, Dannie Garret III and Sen. Jeremy Stine.**

**a. Oath of Office**

- i. Mrs. Angela McCulloch, attorney with the Office of General Counsel, administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed members, Sen. Adam Bass and Rep. Kim Carver.

**III. Mrs. Chauntiel Gay, Group Benefits Accountant and OGB's HIPAA Privacy Officer, provided an overview of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and informed the Board members of what to do and not do if an OGB plan member contacts them.**

- IV. Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2023 Joint Estimating Conference and Policy & Planning Board meeting.
  - a. Dr. Gwile Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2023 Joint Estimating Conference and Policy & Planning Board Meeting. Mr. Frank Opelka seconded the motion. The Policy and Planning Board approved the motion unanimously.
- V. Public Comment
  - a. There was no public comment.
- VI. Introduction to OGB
  - a. Mr. Heath Williams, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for OGB, provided an overview of OGB, informing the Board that OGB is a state agency, authorized by statute to provide health and life benefit programs to state employees, retirees, and their dependents.
- VII. Procurement Matters – Contract Amendments
  - a. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) Amendment #3 – Mr. Williams explained that this Amendment would extend the BCBSLA contract for an additional two years. OGB's Compliance Officer, Molly Collier, informed the Board that the Amendment would have to go to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) for approval because it is required by the Procurement Code. The Board needed to make a motion to recommend or not recommend that OGB take the Amendment to JLCB.
    - i. Sen. Bass made a motion to recommend OGB take the Amendment to JLCB for approval. Mr. Frank Opelka seconded the motion. The Policy and Planning Board approved the motion unanimously.
  - b. Caremark Amendment #2
    - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that under the previous administration the discount from the average wholesale price (AWP) increased each year. This Amendment would hold the AWP from the first year of the Contract steady and there would be no impact to the Louisiana Independent Pharmacy Association (LIPA). This Amendment will keep the AWP discount steady to maintain network adequacy.
      - 1. The Board expressed concern that the pricing information was redacted but Mr. Williams assured them that OGB had the necessary information to make an informed decision.
  - c. TASC Amendment #1
    - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that this Amendment would adjust the Frequency of Contractor response to report email bounce backs. It also will change the terminology of COBRA notice from monthly to yearly.
  - d. TASC Amendment #2

- i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that this amendment would require TASC to mail annual enrollment materials. It would also remove a \$50,000 implementation credit.
- e. Mr. Opelka made a motion to recommend OGB proceed with the Amendments. Mr. Saylor seconded the motion. The Policy and Planning Board approved the motion unanimously.

#### VIII. Procurement Matters – Emergency Contract

- a. Access Health, Incorporated
  - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that this Emergency Contract would extend the current services to December 31, 2024 to match the calendar year.
  - ii. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for a new contract for these services to begin January 1, 2025.
    - 1. Mr. Mike Saylor made a motion to recommend OGB enter into the Emergency Contract. Rep. Kim Carver seconded the motion. The Policy and Planning Board approved the motion unanimously.

#### IX. Procurement Matters – Updates

- a. Fully-Insured Medicare Advantage Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Emergency Contracts
  - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that this Emergency Contract would extend the current contracts through December 31, 2025. This is due to changes mandated by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the potential for those changes to have a negative impact.
  - ii. OGB will issue an RFP for new contracts once the IRA information is confirmed.
- b. Group Term Life Insurance Contract
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Board that the Contract was awarded to Prudential. However, MetLife filed appeal. The appeal was denied and OGB is in final contract negotiations with Prudential. The Contract should be effective January 1, 2025.
- c. Primary Care Network RFP
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Board that an RFP was issued on April 20, 2024. Proposals are due to OGB by June 11, 2024. The contract term will be January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.
- d. Fully-Insured Commercial HMO RFP
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Board that state statute requires the issuance of an RFP for a Fully-Insured HMO health plan that is domiciled within Louisiana. OGB is not expecting any bidders.
- e. Prescription Care Network (Near Real-Time Monitoring )

- i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that this contract will supply real-time monitoring of the PBM to ensure proper claims adjudication. Negotiations are underway with the vendor.
- f. Buck Amendment (Mental Health Parity Analysis)
  - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that this amendment will amend the contract to compare mental health coverage to medical and surgical benefits.
- g. Extend Health Contract Extension
  - i. Mr. Williams informed the Board that this Amendment will extend the Contract for one additional year through December 31, 2025.
- h. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Amendment #4 (No Surprise Billing)
  - i. Mr. Williams explained to the Board that this Amendment details the requirements of BCBSLA's responsibilities as it relates to the No Surprise Billing Act.

XI. New Business

- a. Mr. Jobert mentioned that he is hearing complaints/rumors that LIPA wants to cancel the PBM contract and if there was anything OGB could share with them. Mr. Williams responded not at this time.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Sen. Bass made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Saylor seconded the motion. The Policy and Planning Board approved the motion unanimously.

Approved by Policy and Planning Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_