

**SUMMARY OPEN-SESSION MINUTES
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS
VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEES BENEFITS ASSOCIATION (VEBA)
March 4, 2009**

Members Present: Co-Chair Ed Nelson, Co-Chair Steve Kaplan, Ronnie Adair, Elizabeth Ahlgren, Doretha Albee, Mark Anderson, Janice Cook, Lora Duzyk, David Fernandez, Sam Lucero, Kim Myers, Kevin Ogden, Erik Olson Fernandez

Absent: John deBeck, Jesus Gandara, Joyce LaFleur

Administrative Staff: George McGregor, Betty Ormsbee, Barbara Severino, Sherrie Shumaker, Annemieke Tomey, Nancy White, Bob Whiting

Consultants: Ron Mason, Lan Brown

Guests: Laura Bowersox (ESTA Escondido High), Edwina Cardenas, Sandra Chambers (Kaiser), Christopher Dick (UnitedHealthcare), Gloria Feldman (Medco), Jessica Ghaemmaghani (PBH/Optum), Cynthia Haro (Aetna), Kim Rizzuti (Best Doctors), Linda Townley (PacifiCare)

The meeting was called to order by Steve Kaplan at 8:02 a.m.

Minutes:

MOTION: (Kevin Ogden) Approval of open-session minutes of February 4, 2009. Seconded by Doretha Albee and approved.

Investment Summary:

Reference was made to the Investment Report as of December 31, 2008.

Committee Reports:

California Health Care Coalition (CHCC)

A CHCC report titled "San Diego Quality Assurance Collaborative: A Proposal to Organize and Finance a Sustainable, Locally Controlled Quality Assurance Program for and with CHCC Members" was discussed with the VEBA Board. Board members were asked to review the report and submit written comments to the VEBA administrator for discussion at the March 18, 2009 Executive Committee meeting and to be prepared to make a decision at the next VEBA Board meeting.

California Public Employers/ Employees Health Care Coalition (CPEEHCC)

- Discussion at the last CPEEHCC meeting included the 2009 training conference and planning for the 2010 conference scheduled for January 19-22, 2010
- The creation of policies and procedures was discussed

VEBA Executive Committee

The following items were forwarded from the VEBA Executive Committee for review and consideration:

- Action Item Summary
- Information that requests have been received from participating districts regarding COBRA administration services. Board members concurred with the Executive Committee that the VEBA should not offer this service, but had no objection to McGregor and Associates providing the service independent of VEBA.

VEBA Executive Committee (continued)

- Prescription Summary report
- Email from Erik Olson Fernandez requesting the VEBA administrator and the Towers Perrin consultant prepare a presentation and a report addressing in detail some of the systemic problems of the health care industry in San Diego. Board members supported the need for this type of information. It was decided to schedule the presentation in closed session at the April 1, 2009 Board meeting.
- District contribution audit report for 2009

Consultant's Reports:

Ron Mason, Towers Perrin

- Detailed claims update report on VEBA medical and prescription drug plans
- Neither Kaiser nor PacifiCare are able to offer a "Mini Med" plan that members could select instead of COBRA
- COBRA subsidy required by the American Recovery and Investment Act
- Hearing aid options
- Potential design changes 2010
- Mental Health Parity effective 2010
- Report showing enrollment in PacifiCare plans by district

Administrative Reports:

VEBA Advocacy Programs

- Strength challenge
- Summary reports of three Best Doctor cases
- Call tracking report for December 22, 2008-February 6, 2009
- Communications budget management
- Appeal letter regarding elimination of the hearing aid benefit

VEBA Ombudsman

- Organization visits, carrier meetings, district visits, Communication Council meeting, and prospecting activities
- Discussion topics and comments from February 24, 2009, benefits administrators' meeting

VEBA Administrator

- Prescription drug plan audit report for 2008; \$30,000 recovery reported
- Prescription drug plan summary plan description (SPD)

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m. for a short break prior to commencement of closed session.

The next open-session will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 1, 2009, at San Diego County Office of Education. (A closed session will be held 7:00 –10:00 a.m. on that date.)