

**ARIZONA METROPOLITAN TRUST**  
**Final – Minutes of Monday, December 19, 2016**  
**Special Telephonic Trust Meeting**

**Trustees Present:**

Bryant Powell, Chairperson  
David Fitzhugh, Vice Chairperson  
Mike Duran, Trustee  
James Alcantar, Alternate Trustee  
Sandra King, Alternate Trustee  
Leo Lew, Alternate Trustee  
Lisa Neubert, Alternate Trustee  
David Trimble, Alternate Trustee

**Others Present:**

Justin Cook, Pinal County  
Dawn Hailey, City of El Mirage  
Michael Hensley, JS&H  
Elena Lacy, ECA  
Dana Morris, AmeriBen  
Jaime Schulenberg, ECA

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

**2. Discussion and Possible Action re Medical Claims Appeal 1**

Ms. Schulenberg briefed Trustees on a request from a member for additional Physical Therapy as the benefit year maximum is 20 visits per plan participant and there is no other language that allows for additional therapy if deemed medically necessary.

Trustees discussed at length what would happen if they were to approve and if it would cause a precedence. The discussion continued to include making changes to the Plan now versus with the new plan year. Ms. Schulenberg stated that there is a financial impact and as such, the Trust does not normally make mid-year Plan changes. There were also concerns about whether there would be an even greater cost impact if the member doesn't receive all the physical therapy needed to ensure the success of the surgery.

*Vice Chairperson Fitzhugh made a motion to deny the request for additional physical therapy benefits, seconded by Alternate Trustee King and carried by majority vote with Alternate Trustee Lew abstaining.*

### **3. Discussion and Possible Action re Medical Claims Appeal 2**

Ms. Schulenberg reported that ECA received an appeal from a facility, on behalf of a member, requesting AzMT to reconsider how a payment was processed for services. The member utilized an out-of-network facility and AmeriBen paid in accordance with the summary plan document utilizing the Medicare-Like-Rate (MLR) methodology.

Trustees discussed at length the different pricing methodologies and whether the plan member knew they were out-of-network and if they acknowledged they were OON and subject to balance billing.

*Alternate Trustee King made a motion to deny the appeal, seconded by Vice Chairperson Fitzhugh and carried unanimously.*

### **4. Discussion and Possible Action re Medical Claims Appeal 3**

Ms. Schulenberg stated that this request is very similar to the previous appeal; however, the member is requesting that the Trust reconsider how payment for service was calculated because they were unaware the ER was out-of-network and cannot afford the cost. The claim was processed according to the summary plan document; the facility wrote off the amounts in excess of MLR, however, the physician is balance billing the difference. The member wrote a letter to the physician asking him to write off the balance; ECA is unaware of whether the member received any response.

Trustees discussed whether anyone had reached out to the provider to help negotiate the amount owing, when a response from the provider to the member would be received, and asked for a recommendation from ECA.

*Vice Chairperson Fitzhugh made a motion to deny the appeal, seconded by Alternate Trustee Trimble and carried by majority vote with Alternate Trustee Lew abstaining.*

### **5. Discussion and Possible Action re Subrogation Appeal**

Ms. Schulenberg informed Trustees that ECA received an appeal regarding a request to waive a subrogation the Trust previously voted to deny. The plan member's mother is requesting reconsideration of the previous decision as the member will have on-going medical bills exceeding the settlement of \$50,000. In August, the Board voted to deny the request and follow the subrogation language in the Plan.

Trustees and legal counsel discussed the language in the SPD, counter offering, and recommendations.

*Alternate Trustee King made a motion to deny the request for reconsideration, seconded by Alternate Trustee Trimble and carried by majority vote with Vice Chairperson Fitzhugh abstaining.*

## **6. Administrative Update**

Ms. Schulenberg provide the following administrative updates:

- Maricopa Transition – Went well, although there were some bumps in the road. Based on that experience, ECA will present options for mid-year takeovers at a future meeting.
- Marketing
  - AzMT received a membership application from Paradise Valley for a 07/01/17 entry; Mike Schionning is currently reviewing the information.
  - ECA is also continuing conversations with North County Fire and Medical District, who is now aiming for a 07/01/17 entry.
- Office Closure – ECA will be closed beginning at noon Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday, as well as noon on Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2 for the New Year.

## **7. Call to the Public**

No public was present.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elena Lacy  
Recording Secretary