

ARIZONA METROPOLITAN TRUST
Final – Minutes of Thursday, March 16, 2017
Special Trust Meeting

The following Trustees were present via phone and a quorum was met:

David Fitzhugh, Vice Chairperson	City of Avondale
Mike Duran, Trustee	Buckeye Valley Fire District
Dr. Spencer A. Isom	City of El Mirage
Gregory Rose	City of Maricopa
Michael Thompson	Sun City Fire District

The following Alternate Trustees were present via phone:

Kathleen Haggerty	City of Maricopa
Sandra King	City of El Mirage
Leo Lew	Pinal County
Kathy Reyes	City of Avondale
David Trimble	Town of Fountain Hills

The following consultants/vendors were present:

Laurie Churella	AmeriBen
Michael Hensley	JS&H
Elena Lacy	ECA
Kelly Schoonmaker	AmeriBen
Jaime Schulenberg	ECA

The following guests were present either via phone or in person:

Patrick Camunez (via phone)	Pinal County
Dawn Hailey	City of El Mirage

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Lacy began with roll call.

2. Discussion and Possible Action re Medical Claims Appeal 1

Ms. Schulenberg briefed Trustees that the two appeals are very similar, but will go through each of them.

The first appeal is from a third-party company called Advanced Reimbursement Solutions (ARS) who is disputing the payment made for services rendered at an out-of-network facility. Ms. Schulenberg continued that ARS is appealing based on insufficient payment and the appeal cites numerous ERISA and other provisions that do not apply to AzMT. In short, an AzMT member had non-emergency surgery at an out-of-network facility and AmeriBen processed the claim timely and in accordance with the Plan. ARS was invited to participate in the meeting; however, ECA did

not receive a response. Alternate Trustee Haggerty asked if there was any insight as to why the member chose to go to an out-of-network facility. Ms. Schulenberg stated that neither ECA nor AmeriBen know why the member went out-of-network, but would assume that it was based on a recommendation by their provider.

Mike Hensley, the Trust's legal counsel, stated that he researched the organization and ARS is a third-party company that encourages providers/facilities not to join a network with the claim that they can get a better reimbursement through negotiation. Alternate Trustee Reyes would like to discuss the third-party company at a future meeting.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to deny the appeal, seconded by Trustee Rose and unanimously carried.

3. Discussion and Possible Action re Medical Claims Appeal 2

Ms. Schulenberg stated that the second appeal also came from Advance Reimbursement Solutions (ARS) who is appealing based on an assertion that AzMT did not reimburse for a medically necessary procedure and that the payment was insufficient. Ms. Schulenberg reported that the member underwent a non-emergency surgery at an out-of-network facility and in accordance with Summary Plan Document, AmeriBen processed the claim accurately and timely.

Trustee Rose made a motion to deny the appeal, seconded by Trustee Isom and unanimously carried.

4. Call to the Public

No comments were made by the public.

5. Adjournment

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 a.m. seconded by Trustee Isom and unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elena Lacy
Recording Secretary