

Joint Administrative Services Board
March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting 10:00 am

At a regular meeting of the Joint Administrative Services Board held on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 10:00 am in Meeting Room AB, Berryville Clarke County Government Center, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia.

Members Present: Chris Boies, Sharon Keeler, David Weiss, Rick Catlett, Monica Singh-Smith

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brenda Bennett, Catherine Marsten

Others Present: None

1. Call to Order

At 10:06 am, David Weiss called the meeting to order.

2. Determination of Quorum

David Weiss determined that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chris Boies made a motion, seconded by Sharon Keeler, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Chris Boies	-	Aye
Rick Catlett	-	Aye
Sharon Keeler	-	Aye
Monica Singh-Smith	-	Aye
David Weiss	-	Aye

4. Benefit Plan Administrators (BPA) Update

Brenda Bennett provided the following update:

- Staff is looking at the county’s aggregate costs across the two contracts.
- The county paid just shy of \$5.4 million for claims and administration, but it is hard to separate and compare the data from each contract. A high-level reconciliation suggests that Clarke has overpaid by approximately \$60,000.
- The balance of the Pinnacle bank account that BPA holds in the county’s name is currently about \$83,000. The most recent bank statement shows a \$13,400 deduction from that account, staff is trying to determine why.

David Weiss

- Inquired about the outstanding issues with the third party vendor, Beacon HCI.
 - Brenda Bennett answered that Clarke appears to have overpaid \$16,000 in fees to Beacon HCI, which should be returned. The county paid those fees for Beacon HCI to collect over-charge refunds from providers. However, the refunds collected were paid to the reinsurer instead, so the fees that Clarke paid should be returned.

Chris Boies

- Asked about the timeframe for closing out the bank account.
 - Brenda Bennett responded that staff’s goal is March 31.

Brenda Bennett continued:

- The county’s contract for Anthem self-funded insurance ended on June 30, 2023 and it appears that there is a \$172,000 credit remaining. According to Anthem, those funds can be released on June 30, 2025.

5. The Local Choice Health Insurance FY25 Renewal

Brenda Bennett advised the following:

- Staff received renewal information for Anthem Local Choice, the county’s current health insurance provider, and rates will increase 2%.
- The 2% rate increase will cost \$88,517 overall.
- Within each of the three plan levels, there are five different tiers offered.

Staff provided the Board current plan census and cost information for each plan and tier, as well as the costs for three different scenarios: (1) employer covers entire increase (2) employee covers the entire increase, and (3) employer and employee split the increase evenly.

Chris Boies

- Noted that employees have shared concerns about the cost of benefits, especially compared to other localities, and that the county has made an effort to cover rate increases over the past few years in order to improve this.

Rick Catlett

- Opined that it was remarkable that the county covered all but 2% of last year’s 18% insurance rate increase.

David Weiss

- Offered that it would be reasonable for the County to cover the increase this year, and cautioned against setting an expectation amongst employees that the County will absorb all rate increases going forward.

Chris Boies made a motion, seconded by Monica Singh-Smith, to have the County pay the entire 2% health insurance rate increase using health insurance account fund balance. The motion carried by the following vote:

Chris Boies	-	Aye
Rick Catlett	-	Aye
Sharon Keeler	-	Aye
Monica Singh-Smith	-	Aye
David Weiss	-	Aye

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 25, 2024.

7. Adjournment

At 10:28 am, Chairman Weiss adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Recorded and Transcribed by Catherine Marsten