

MINUTES

PCF OVERSIGHT BOARD

February 5, 2009

WOMAN'S HOSPITAL
BATON ROUGE, LA.

Mr. Clark Cosse', Chairman, convened the meeting of the Patient's Compensation Fund Oversight Board, at 6:30 PM on Thursday February 5, 2009, at the Woman's Hospital Corporate Board Room in Baton Rouge.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Mr. Clark Cosse'	Mr. Joe Donchess
Mr. Kent Guidry	Dr. Kate Rathbun
Dr. Van Culotta	

Board Members absent:

Mr. Manuel DePascual
Mrs. Dionne Viator
Dr. John LaCorte
Dr. Melanie Firmin

Others present:

Lorraine LeBlanc	Brian Mooney
Mr. Ken Schnauder	Mrs. Barbara Woodard
Dr. John Lemoine	Mr. Dave Woolridge
James Kennedy	Richard Caronna
Michael Phillips	Aminthe Broussard
Arwin Baude	

Mr. Cosse' called the meeting to order. Mr. Cosse' asked that the record show five board members attended and a quorum was present. Mr. Cosse' welcomed the guests to the meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Cosse' asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

Mr. Cosse' called for the approval of the January minutes. Dr. Rathbun moved for the minutes to be approved with no corrections. Dr. Culotta seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes.

Mr. Cosse' asked for the computer application update. Mrs. LeBlanc introduced Brian Mooney, IT Director for the PCF and Richard Caronna and Michael Phillips of Spark Hound. She explained that significant progress has been made within the past few months. The staff was adapting to the new computer system and working out bugs every day. Mrs. LeBlanc informed the Board that in hindsight, the RFP could have been more specific which would have been helpful to the consultant and the PCF staff. It was felt that the PCF did get the system required in the contract and bid proposal. Board members asked if the timeline from the contractor had been met as this appeared to be a concern at the last meeting. Mrs. LeBlanc explained that there were a few on-going issues such as the National Practitioner's Data Bank link, and the Corvel interface, both of which involve cooperation and assistance from outside sources. Mr. Mooney informed the Board that the new application was delivered and the majority of the PCF staff was pleased with the outcome. Mr. Cosse' asked if the Legislative Auditor's Office was aware that the application was almost complete. Mr. Mooney stated that they were and in fact, a representative from the Legislative Auditors Office was presently at the PCF, interacting with the staff and watching how the application was being utilized. Dr. Culotta asked if Lammico could now send the PCF electronic copies of the files. Mrs. LeBlanc stated that they had been doing this since at least 2006. Mr. Cosse' asked in general how long the shelf-life for this computer system was and if this would take place again. Mr. Mooney informed the Board that usually an application such as PRISM will have a 5-7 year life. He also stated that at that time the application could be replaced piece by piece instead of developing an entirely new application.

Mr. Cosse' asked for the financial updates. Mrs. Woodard explained that the budget expenditures as shown on the financial sheet were as expected and the overall operating budget appeared adequate. Mrs. Woodard explained that the BA7 was submitted on January 26, 2009 to the state budget office for an additional \$15,000,000 for claim payments. Mrs. LeBlanc explained that the state budget office sent an email stating that they may be combining the schedule 20-929 claims budget under the schedule 21-814 operating budget and it would be listed as "other" charges. This change could be effective with the new FY beginning July 1, 2009. Mrs. Woodard informed the Board that the 2010 budget recommendations were received from the state budget office. The original amount requested by the PCF was \$4,008,000 and the recommendation by the budget office to the commissioner was \$3,982,000, a difference of \$26,000. Mr. Cosse' asked if there were any other comments on the budget. There were none.

The next item on the agenda was the claims manager report. Mr. Schnauder stated that through January 31, 2009 claim payments totaled about \$68,000,000. Last fiscal year at this time, payments totaled around \$73,000,000. Mr. Schnauder informed the Board that the claims section has closed 100 more claims than opened. In 2008, there were 1592 panels filed which is 300-400 less than in previous years. Mr. Schnauder presented 36 claims for approval in the amount of \$14,000,000. Claims council authority for January was approximately \$18,000,000 on 51 claims. Mr. Schnauder stated he believed the BA7 in the amount of \$15,000,000 would

carry the claims budget to the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Cosse' asked if there were any other questions or comments on the claims report. There were none.

Mr. Cosse' then called for a discussion on the coverage of medical students. Dr. Culotta stated that hospitals are using more students and he wondered if a policy could be written that would cover the medical students or the schools. The schools are looking for the protection of the MMA. Hospitals seem to want the schools and students to have PCF coverage. Dr. Rathbun stated that students are there to learn and not be the actual service provider. She stated that students cannot be left alone to provide medical services and that the supervising provider should be responsible. Mr. Cosse' stated that there was a shortage in a trained and skilled workforce, but that he had not heard complaints from the hospitals on the coverage of medical students. Mr. Cosse' asked if students were eligible under the PCF statues 1299.41.A(10). Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she receives inquiries from colleges frequently requesting that students be covered. Dr. Lemoine informed the Board that Lammico insures some medical students and residents that attend out-of-state medical schools; however he would be interested in feedback from any research that is done on this. There were several questions raised: if the students are included and covered under the attending physician or attending hospital would this put the doctor or hospital at further risk; should the student be covered under a separate policy while performing medical services; is there a need for PCF coverage. Ms. Baude, a Tulane representative was present and she was asked if they required medical students, such as LPN's, Radiology Techs, etc., to have their own coverage. Ms. Baude stated that she would research this and let a board member know. Mr. Guidry stated that Acadian Ambulance does cover students and has more access to facilities for training. Dr. Culotta informed the Board that due to a nursing shortage in the state, that East and West Jefferson Hospitals were implementing a nursing degree program that would pay students to attend school. Mr. Cosse' asked that some more information be gathered concerning the possibility of insuring students.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked Dr. Culotta how the medical society felt about tele-radiology since there have been several inquiries regarding this lately. There was some legislation passed regarding telemedicine and the State Licensing Board was to develop some guidelines. Dr. Culotta stated that he would check with the medical society and report this information at the March Board meeting.

Mr. Cosse' asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Mr. Cosse' thanked the guests for attending and the General Session was adjourned. The Board moved into the Executive Session.

Mr. Clark Cosse', Chairman