



Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Meeting

MINUTES

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Via Zoom/By Video or Conference Call Only
Registration Link: <https://dchealthlink.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsfu-orDloHdSdablYwYWHdHni44v-QaEp>

Register in advance or at the time of meeting to join.

Members Present: Henry Aaron, Leighton Ku, Diane Lewis, Gabriela Mossi, Khalid Pitts, Ramon Richards, Karima Woods

Members Absent: Sharon Lewis, Wayne Turnage, Tamara Watkins, Laura Zeilinger

Welcome, Opening Remarks and Roll Call

Diane Lewis, Chair

A roll call confirmed a quorum with four voting members present (Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pitts).

Approval of Agenda

Diane Lewis, Chair

It was moved and seconded to approve the draft Agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Mossi, and Mr. Pitts voting yes.

Approval of Minutes

Diane Lewis, Chair

It was moved and seconded to approve the March 8, 2023, March 23, 2023, April 3, 2023, and April 12, 2023, minutes. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Mossi, and Mr. Pitts voting yes.

Discussion Items

HealthCare4ChildCare Outreach & Engagement Program Grants – *Mila Kofman, Executive Director*

At your March meeting, the Executive Board approved establishing a grant program in the amount of \$160,000 for June 1 through September 30, 2023 -- through the end of this fiscal year, and \$480,000 for fiscal year 2024, to fund groups to assist with HealthCare4ChildCare outreach and enrollment. After you approved establishing the grant program, our staff issued a request for applications. We had a panel of reviewers to make recommendations, and we recommend funding for the following groups.

Recommended Grantee Awards (Not to Exceed Amounts)

- SPACES in Action
 - FY23: \$30,000; FY24: \$75,000
- Community Educational Research Group
 - FY23: \$35,000; FY24: \$127,500
- The Multicultural Spanish Speaking Providers Association
 - FY23: \$30,000; FY24 \$75,000
- The DC Early Learning Collaborative, Inc.
 - FY23: \$35,000; FY24 \$127,500
- DC Association for the Education of Young Children
 - FY23: \$30,000; FY24: \$75,000

We are seeking foundation funding for this program; the final award amount for each grantee will be set after determining whether foundation funding exists. We also may revise the grant funding amounts based on additional discussion with grantees. The Board's marketing and consumer outreach committee reviewed these recommendations and approved moving the request to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee approved moving this request to the full Board for approval.

Maximus US Services, Inc. – *Mila Kofman, Executive Director*

Maximus is the vendor that provides our Call Center Services. We are asking for approval to increase the contact center ceiling for this current year, which is our base year, and then for the option year that we're about to exercise. The principal reason or reasons for increasing the budget is we want to make sure that we have adequate call center staffing for the highly likely increase in call volume due to Medicaid unwinding. We also want to leverage the call center staff to support HealthCare4ChildCare program outreach as needed. The increase will help us keep about 25 customer service representatives each month on the phone lines to support the increased call volume. The Board has already approved base year for this vendor at a prior meeting (\$3,871,341). We're asking for an increase of \$579,705, which will be through the end of this fiscal year. You have already approved option year funding in the amount of \$4,052,535. We're requesting an additional \$1.5 million for this option year. The Finance Committee has already approved this request and approved moving to the full board for your approval. I'm happy to take any questions.

Carahsoft for Amazon Web Services – *Mila Kofman, Executive Director*

We're seeking your approval to get a new vendor, Carahsoft, to procure cloud hosting services (Amazon Web Services – AWS). We use this vendor to host our enrollment platforms, including the one we host per agreement with Massachusetts' Commonwealth Connector Authority. We are leveraging the work that the Office of Contracts and Procurement has done: they have a master agreement with Carahsoft for AWS. Under the city's Master Agreement, we can save up to 2% on the rate that we're paying now for AWS. The Finance Committee has reviewed and approved moving this to the full Board for approval, and the request is for the base year in the amount of \$256,500--and that would start June 24. That's when our current contract ends. The base year would start June 24 and it will run through September 30, 2023. For Option Year One, we're seeking your approval for \$950,000. Option year one would start October 1, 2023 and run through September 30 2024. I am happy to take any questions.

Exercise Option Year for Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) IT Consulting Services for Idea Crew, Inc.– *Mila Kofman, Executive Director*

This is a CBE IT vendor called Idea Crew. Under an existing contract, they provide support for our entire DC Health Link. This includes IT development, as well as IT operations and maintenance work for both DC Health Link and the MassHealth Connector for Business. We are seeking approval to exercise the last Option Year under this contract that will start October 1, 2023, and extend through September 30, 2024. We are seeking an amount up to the contract ceiling of \$8.5 million. Approximately \$2 million of that is for the Massachusetts side. The Finance Committee has already reviewed and approved moving this to the full Board for approval. And just as a reminder, because this contract would exceed a million dollars, it does require Council approval. I'm happy to take any questions.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Vote

HealthCare4ChildCare Outreach & Engagement Program Grants

Maximus US Services, Inc.

Carahsoft for Amazon Web Services

Exercise Option Year for Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) IT Consulting Services for Idea Crew, Inc.

It was moved and seconded to vote to approve *en bloc* the grants and contracts listed above. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Mossi, Mr. Pitts, and Mr. Richards voting yes.

Move to Executive Session

Diane Lewis, Chair

Closed Session pursuant to DC Official Code Sections 2-575(b)(2), (4A), (8), and 31-3171.11 to discuss contracts and legal advice.

It was moved and seconded to move to Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Aaron, Dr. Ku, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Mossi, Mr. Pitts, and Mr. Richards voting yes.

Resumption of Public Session

Diane Lewis, Chair

We are resuming the public meeting. In resuming, we are announcing that no action was taken in the closed session and that we will now resume the public portion of the meeting. The next issue to be discussed is the Finance Committee report.

Executive Board Finance Committee Report

Henry Aaron, Chair

The Finance Committee met on the sixth of April 6th and on May 4th. At our April meeting, we reviewed and approved an investment decision electing to leave funds in government money market funds to ensure liquidity and given the relatively high yield on overnight and money market accounts, that was fine. In terms of return about as well as we could do. In our May meeting, we decided to defer the decision on how we should invest funds from the maturing assets, pending a recommendation from the DC Treasury and a fuller review of upcoming financial needs. Some of which are related to the litigation.

In May, the committee reviewed and approved the three contracts on which we voted earlier. The committee also reviewed and approved the grants we voted on earlier for HealthCare4ChildCare program outreach and engagement. In April, the committee received updates on the lease renewal for Office at 1225 “Eye” Street, and about the Budget Oversight hearing. In April, the Finance Committee also reviewed budget and spending reports and found nothing of concern. The May meeting was under some time pressure. We will examine the budget and spending reports for May at our June meeting. That’s our full report.

Executive Director Report

Mila Kofman, Executive Director

Our budget hearing was on March 30. Both Diane and I were there to respond to questions and walk through our budget. It went very well. We had lots of witnesses testifying to support our budget and our work. Lots of witnesses supporting the health care for childcare program. Lots of witnesses talked about the help they’ve gotten through the Inflation Reduction Act for low premiums, and just generally the services that we provide. It went very, very well.

Another Council update is that the council approved our Experian contract in early May.

Proposed premiums health insurance premiums have been filed. The deadline was May 1, and the proposed rates will be reviewed and eventually decided upon by Commissioner Woods and DISB. As always, we will be weighing in on that. Our contracted actuarial firm, Oliver Wyman, is looking at what’s proposed to help us understand how we can advocate for lower premiums based on actuarial assumptions, as well as policy reasons.

Health care for childcare, some great news: we’ve increased our enrollment. As of May 1, we cover 97 employers and that represents 144 facilities. 47 of those employers are newly insured and about half of the employers who had insurance with us before actually seen their employee take-up rate increase. So

that's really excellent news. For DC residents who are workers in these OSSE-licensed facilities, we've increased our enrollment of residents. So we are now covering about 39% of eligible residents, which is great news. And by the way, when we talk to residents who do check whether or not they're eligible for Medicaid, and if they are, we do help them enroll in Medicaid. And if they're not eligible, we enroll them in health care for childcare, either through the employer or on the individual and family market side.

I know that many of you are paying very close attention to Medicaid unwinding. I just want to mention a couple of things. We continue to work very closely with DHCF. We have asked them to come to our July board meeting, to provide the board with an update on early lessons, what they are seeing. And in part, this was based on requests from Dr. Aaron, and a recent discussion we had for an update on how things are going.

We have received the initial set of information from DHCF on people who no longer qualify for Medicaid but do qualify for our coverage. We've initiated our outreach efforts to get those folks enrolled. We are also emailing and texting and calling those folks as well. Also, just in terms of folks who are employed in OSSE-licensed childcare facilities and who are enrolled in Medicaid, we have worked very closely with DHCF, and they have pushed those determinations out to the very end of the unwinding period. And that will help to keep people in stable coverage without having you know, come to us and then go back into Medicaid.

The federal government finalized its 2024 Notice of Benefit and Policy Parameters rule. There were many things that we supported that they finalized; we're very pleased with that. There were some things that we didn't support they finalized. They finalized the AV calculator, which we weighed in on; they did not make any changes. But the good news is that we don't have to make any modifications to our standard plan design.

Our social justice speaker, Marc Morial, who is President of the National Urban League joined us in April to celebrate (a little bit late) Black History Month.

We recently held PowerUp and that was another successful PowerUp DC. I just want to do a shout out to Commissioner Woods, she facilitated an important panel for us, and we got lots of positive feedback about the information.

In terms of agency operations, we are transitioning our staff to in person in the office status three times a week. And that concludes my report. I'm happy to take questions.

Leighton Ku: What's the reaction to three days in the office a week?

Mila Kofman: As expected. And I just want to say, so our great COO, Desiree planned a bunch of activities and you know we had food and refreshments. We tried to create a very welcoming return to the office. And our staff really appreciated it; we had lots of positive feedback. But you know, it's going to be a transition--every company, every government agency that is doing this is seeing that it requires a transition.

Leighton Ku: Sure, there are transportation costs and burdens. And so that complicates things.

Mila Kofman: We're working on it to make it as easy as possible for folks. But this is one of the things that is important to the city. Part of the economic recovery in DC relies on people being in DC. And I know I've heard the Mayor talk about this in many venues. The fact that the federal government is mostly still remote is problematic for DC. We are in the downtown area where it's important for us to be there to be, you know, part of the economic recovery, not that we're that biggest staff, but still, it's really important for us to be contributing to the economic recovery.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Diane Lewis, Chair

Any other questions? Hearing none, that concludes our business for today. The meeting stands adjourned at 6:47 pm on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023. Thank you everyone and have a good evening.