



# Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Board of Trustees

June 20, 2023

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

*Meeting Held at the Anne Arundel County Community College and via Video Conference*

## **Members Present:**

Ben Steffen, MA, Vice Chair

Kathleen A. Birrane

Dana Weckesser

Aika Aluc

Maria Pilar Rodriguez

K. Singh Taneja

Laura Crandon

Rondall Allen

## **Also in Attendance:**

Michele Eberle, Executive Director, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE)

Andy Ratner, Chief of Staff

Venkat R. Koshanam, Chief Information Officer, MHBE

Tony Armiger, Chief Financial Officer, MHBE

Sharon Merriweather, Principal Counsel, MHBE

Johanna Fabian-Marks, Director of Policy and Plan Management, MHBE

Tamara Cannida-Gunter, Director of Consumer Assistance & Eligibility, MHBE

JasCiel Stamp, Director, Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness

Scott Brennan, Director of Compliance and Privacy

Tracey Gamble, Procurement Manager, MHBE

## **Meeting Call to Order**

Mr. Steffen called the meeting to order. He noted the presence of two new Board members, welcoming Ms. Aluc and Ms. Crandon.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Weckesser moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting. Ms. Rodriguez seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.

## **Public Comment**

None offered.

## Executive Update

*Michele Eberle, Executive Director, MHBE*

Ms. Eberle noted that the present meeting constitutes the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees wherein it approves the meeting schedule for the coming year. She presented the proposed list of meeting dates and locations. The Board voted to approve the meeting schedule with no opposition.

## Board of Trustees Appeal Regulation

*Sharon Merriweather, Principal Counsel, MHBE*

Ms. Merriweather presented the final action on regulations for appeals from determinations regarding producer authorization. She began by reminding the Board that the amended regulation delegates most producer appeals to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), and that the amendments were approved in February, were published in the Maryland Register in April, and received no comments. She concluded by noting that, should the Board vote to adopt the amended regulations, they would become final on July 14, 2023. Commissioner Birrane moved to adopt the Amendments to COMAR 14.35.10, as proposed, and to publish the amended regulations in the Maryland Register. Dr. Allen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

## Young Adult Subsidy Parameters

*Johanna Fabian-Marks, Director of Policy and Plan Management, MHBE*

Ms. Fabian-Marks presented the final parameters of the 2024 Young Adult Subsidy Pilot Program. She began by explaining that the Maryland General Assembly extended the pilot program for an additional two years through 2025. She noted that the 2023 program was available to enrollees aged 18 to 34 years, with the most generous subsidy being offered to those age 30 or younger with the benefit tapering through age 34. The Board is empowered to cap enrollment in the plan should it appear that funding would be exhausted, but has not had to do so since the plan has been under budget every year.

Next, Ms. Fabian-Marks presented options under consideration to modify the parameters of the program so more of the budgeted amount could be used for subsidies. The MHBE staff recommended the third option, that the age limits be raised by three years, with the maximum subsidy being made available up to age 33, phasing out through age 37. She shared a forecast that over 2,000 people will newly enroll in the program due to the expanded subsidy and that the program will remain under budget.

Ms. Fabian-Marks then noted the timeline of changes to the parameters; the Board voted on the proposed plan in May leading to a public comment period through June 9. Two public comments were received, both in support of the change.

Ms. Weckesser moved to approve option 3 as the final 2024 young adult premium subsidy parameters as presented. Mr. Taneja seconded.

Mr. Steffen asked that the MHBE report on the accuracy of their new enrollment estimates in one year. Ms. Fabian-Marks agreed. The motion was approved without opposition.

## Young Adult Subsidy Proposed Regulatory Update

*Johanna Fabian-Marks, Director of Policy and Plan Management, MHBE*

Ms. Fabian-Marks presented a proposed update to the regulations governing the Young Adult Subsidy Pilot Program. She noted that the original regulation referred to specific years for the program's operation whereas the proposed update would remove references to specific years and replace them with general language allowing the Board to set parameters for future program years. She reminded the Board that their vote on the proposed changes would trigger the regulatory process, including a 30-day public comment period, before final action by the Board in September and an effective date in October.

Commissioner Birrane moved to approve adoption of the proposed Young Adult Subsidy regulatory updates as presented and authorize MHBE to submit them to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review for review and to the Division of State Documents for publication in the Maryland Register as presented. Dr. Allen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

## Procurement Items – IT

*Tracey Gamble, Procurement Manager, MHBE*

*Venkat R. Koshanam, Chief Information Officer, MHBE*

Ms. Green and Mr. Koshanam presented items related to information technology (IT) procurements. Mr. Koshanam described the Informatica Power Center software and how it is used in the MHBE's system, specifically as part of its disaster recovery plan. Ms. Gamble summarized the procurement, including its term, value, vendor, and licensing model. Mr. Steffen moved to approve the contract award to NJ3Q Technology LLC to procure Informatica PowerCenter license subscription for the period from June 27, 2023 to June 27, 2025, in the amount of \$306,358 with a Federal participation amount of \$202,196.28 and State participation amount of \$104,161.72. Mr. Taneja seconded the motion.

Mr. Steffen asked how the disaster recovery plan for the MHBE will differ based on this procurement. Mr. Koshanam replied that the disaster recovery site will be outside of the Maryland Total Human-services Integrated Network (MD THINK).

The motion was approved.

Next, Mr. Koshanam described how the Akamai product suite is used by the MHBE for multiple purposes including security optimization and performance monitoring, noting it is a core protection system for the agency. Ms. Gamble summarized the procurement including its term, value, vendor, and licensing model. Mr. Koshanam discussed the component products within the Akamai system and their license cost as divided into Federal and State participation amounts. Mr. Steffen moved to approve the contract award to Carahsoft Technology Corporation to procure the Akamai license subscription for the period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$915,360.24 with a Federal Participation of \$604,137.76 and a State participation amount of \$311,222.48. Ms. Crandon seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Koshanam then described the Corticon Business Rules Engine software as deployed by the MHBE for automation and management of eligibility and enrollment decision making functions. Ms. Gamble summarized the procurement including its term, value, vendor, and licensing model. Mr. Koshanam provided the breakdown of products and license costs. Mr. Steffen moved to approve the contract award to AlxTel, Inc to procure Corticon licenses and support for the period from August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2025 in the amount of \$876,712 with a Federal Participation of \$578,629.92 and State Participation amount of \$298,082.08. Ms. Weckesser seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Steffen requested that the MHBE give the Board an overview of IT systems for the benefit of the new Board members. Mr. Koshanam agreed. Ms. Weckesser asked that the overview include information on MD THINK. Mr. Koshanam agreed.

### Maximus Contract - Fifth Modification Public Health Emergency Unwinding Cost

*Tamara Cannida-Gunter, Director of Consumer Assistance & Eligibility, MHBE*

*Tony Armiger, Chief Financial Officer, MHBE*

Ms. Cannida-Gunter presented on the proposed modification to the MHBE's contract with Maximus for its Consolidated Service Center. In anticipation of additional volume of consumer assistance requests due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding, the contract would allow Maximus to maintain a higher level of staffing and additional Robocall targeting while offsetting some of the additional risk should the demand fall below expectations. Mr. Armiger explained that the proposed budget's total is less than the not-to-exceed (NTE) amount approved by the Board the prior year.

Mr. Steffen asked whether the NTE amount proposed would include any extension of the PHE unwinding period beyond September 30, 2023. Mr. Armiger replied that, should the PHE unwinding period be extended, the MHBE would seek new approvals from the Board.

Commissioner Birrane asked for details of the forecast calculation. Ms. Cannida-Gunter replied that the contract expects the vendor to keep additional staff on hand. Ms. Eberle added that, since the PHE unwinding is a novel occurrence, there is little upon which to base projections. The risk incurred by the vendor based upon unsupported calculations will be offset by the MHBE in the event that the additional demand does not arrive.

Ms. Eberle asked whether the budget presented is an NTE rather than the amount that would be spent. Mr. Armiger replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Steffen moved to approve the modification as presented. Dr. Allen seconded. The motion was approved.

### Closing

Ms. Eberle presented a video highlighting the MHBE's accomplishments from the last year.

### Adjournment

Mr. Taneja moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Weckesser. The meeting was adjourned.