

## **Operations Minutes October 5, 2021**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams Live pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

The following matters were discussed:

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A correction to the minutes was made to item #1 from the floor to reflect the correct number of years the three major health centers in the area conduct their study. Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera. There being no further discussion, motion was carried, and the September 28, 2021 Operations Meeting Minutes were approved as amended.

Agenda Items:

**1. Rx Benefits – Christie Bennett-Zellers, Benefit Manager, Peter Kareha and Samuel Cooper – McGriff Insurance**

Christie Bennett-Zellers advised that there is no change to the Rx Benefits design plan for 2022. Prescription and Health Contribution changes were addressed by Pete Kareha of McGriff who ultimately suggested leaving premium equivalents flat. Mr. Kareha also informed of the partnership between CVS Caremark and Rx Benefits and the pharmacy savings it will provide.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to approve holding equivalents flat in 2022. Said motion was seconded by Commission Leinbach. Seeing no further discussion, motion carried.

**2. 2022 Health Care Contributions and My Care Rewards Update – Jessica Weaknecht, Director of HR and Christie Bennett-Zellers, Benefit Manager**

Christie Bennett-Zellers stated that the My Care Rewards program was not effective due to lack of local providers which resulted in gift cards not being utilized. The need for providers in our area is necessary for success, but not currently a viable option.

Commissioners agreed to put this endeavor on hold and explore new possibilities as it remains an important mission that we may need to attempt to achieve elsewhere.

**3. Debit Card Program – Sandy Graffius, Controller and Oliver Arthur, Manager of Auditing**

Sandy Graffius provided a detailed explanation of the process for how the debit cards will work, the various options you have upon receipt, background about the vendor, Court Funds, as well as statistics and points of contact for future questions or support.

**4. Lease space for County offices in Mohnton - Ken Pick, Executive Director of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority**

Ken Pick outlined an opportunity for the county to lease 100,000 square feet of office space, defined by a thirty-year gross lease, with a four million dollar fit out provided by the Authority, to best utilize the space initially. The building would be purchased by the Redevelopment Authority's non-profit corporation, and the leasing of office space to a wide variety of county operations would ultimately save the county money as opposed to the time and cost of building, which was a previous consideration.

Commissioners acknowledged the potential of this opportunity, citing that location, accessibility, square footage, budgeting stability, soundness of the structure and timeframe check all the important boxes and is the most sensible option yet. Commissioners look forward to reviewing the proposed lease prior to potentially approving at an upcoming public meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, to adjourn. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera, and the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

**Please Note:** The Operations Meeting for October 12<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

Comments - None

Respectfully Submitted,

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Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk