

Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, Inc.

Executive Committee

Notes from the meeting of November 1, 2023

Note: This meeting was held virtually on the Zoom web platform.

Attendance

Committee Members: Scott Thomas, Art Proper, Jack Mabb, Becky Polmateer

Absent Committee Member: Robin Andrews

Staff Members: Claire Parde, Lisa Thomas

Executive Director's Report

Update on Physical Injury Claim Against the Consortium

Claire provided an update on this incident, which occurred last Fall. As a reminder, it involved a driver who was transporting an elderly wheelchair-bound client and her adult daughter in the minibus. The driver went over a speed bump too quickly. Both passengers claimed they were injured and are now suing for two million dollars. Philadelphia, our carrier at the time of the incident, is defending the Consortium and the driver. Recently, we received a summary report from the attorney handling the case for Philly. It appears the client in the wheelchair did sustain injuries (compression fractures). Her daughter's injuries are less obvious. She said she sustained injuries to her knees but has a history of knee problems; she also denied involvement in previous car accidents but was found to have been involved in two, and has been consulting with a physician who is known to practice "litigation-driven medicine." Given the nature of the incident and injuries, the attorney estimates that each claimant will ultimately receive compensation in the range of \$100,000 - \$150,000. The next step in this process isn't until February 2024. Claire will provide updates as they occur. This will likely negatively affect our experience rating and raise our premium. This is the first claim in Claire's experience at the Consortium (12 years).

Another Incident Involving a Driver

Claire informed the Committee about an incident involving a driver and a client of MHA which was alleged to have occurred in 2021 and about which she learned in the late spring of this year. Following an investigation by law enforcement, as well as consultation with counsel, Claire decided that the driver's employment with the agency should be terminated. This was done effective October 11, 2023. Claire has requested a meeting with David Rossetti of MHA to review the way that the matter was handled and identify opportunities for improvement in process and communication between agencies. Claire has been in contact with HC Board President Scott Thomas all throughout this process.

Update on Recruitment of an Office Manager

We interviewed one candidate and came to the realization that the position is really a blend of lower order functions, such as ordering supplies and managing equipment, as well as higher order functions, such as benefits administration and Board support. It will be difficult to find someone who can fill both of those functions. We are looking at the possibility of hiring a part-time receptionist to handle the lower order functions.

Review of the Executive Director Evaluation

Claire and Lisa left the meeting at 9:30 a.m. so that the committee members could review and discuss the Board members' responses to the Executive Director Evaluation. A motion to enter the Executive session was made by Becky Polmateer. Jack Mabb seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Jack Mabb to end the Executive session. Becky Polmateer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on **January 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom**