



## May 2021 Administrators Newsletter

### Financial Report

The MEUHP continues to be on firm financial footing. End of month cash balances were \$6,215,259.56 with an additional earned, but not yet received, Pharmacy Rebate of approximately \$540,000.00. Therefore total liquid assets as of April 30, 2021 were \$6,765,259.56, which have been steadily improving since January 1, 2021.

### Renewal and Partial Return of Assessment

Renewal season has come to a close and six of our districts have chosen to leave the group protection of the MEUHP and move to a stand-alone program. Of these six districts, five have pulled a significant amount of money above their premiums paid to cover their claims during the calendar year 2020. As we move into the calendar year 2021, most of these five districts continue to experience claims in excess of their premiums. Our independent actuary has verified our overall financial position should be stronger based on the past results from these districts.

In July of 2019, the Board of Directors committed to return funds back to districts who paid an assessment in that year and who remain members of MEUHP, once the overall financial picture of the program stabilized. The Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 6, to review the renewal and the change in the financial forecast of the program. After review, the Board of Directors voted to have me prepare a methodology to begin returning a portion of the assessment. This methodology will be presented to the Board of Directors for their consideration at the summer meeting to be held on July 29 and 30, 2021.

### Prospecting and New Districts

We are glad to welcome two new member districts effective July 1:

#### **Shell Knob 78 (SW Region) & Gallatin R-V (NW Region)**

It was a very busy prospecting season for new MEUHP districts. There were 20 school districts that were reviewed for a MEUHP tier placement. Out of those districts, 14 were offered a tier placement, that in most instances, was competitive. Six of the districts, after underwriting review by Cigna and our independent actuary, did not qualify for a tier placement due to high risk factors. Just as we experienced in our renewal, some of the districts that we made a tier offer to, decided to leave the security of the group they were in and go either stand alone or self-funded. I don't know if it is the financial climate, or just the strange year with COVID, lockdowns and Alternate Method of Instruction, but I cannot imagine putting my district out there on its own without the protections of being a part of a large group of districts.

In fact we received a nice letter from Shell Knob 78 superintendent, Shelly Fransen, on why their district chose to join our program. Thank you Shelly!

"Dear MEUHP,

As a superintendent, I am always looking for ways to improve staff climate. Over the years our staff has always voiced that health insurance is the most important part of their salary package. In making the change to MEUHP there were several factors that played a role in the move:

- Better price for actual benefits on each plan
- Great wellness incentives that everyone is excited about
- The preventive generics drug list for those that participate in the HSA plan
- Great customer service
- The sense that MEUHP is working for the insured as opposed to the insurers
- The online enrollment which was very user friendly

Although our plan year will not begin until July 1, 2021, I have already felt a part of the group and welcomed. Thank you, Harold, for reaching out!"

Dr. Shelly Fransen, Superintendent  
Shell Knob School District #78

## COVID Update

I believe that it goes without saying that from the beginning of the pandemic, the MEUHP has been a leader in the education health insurance community. Your Board of Directors wanted to ensure that our membership had access to quality health care, without worrying about the personal financial impact that a serious COVID illness could bring. As a self-funded program, the MEUHP has the ability to set its own guidelines when it comes to how COVID claims are processed. When the Federal COVID Emergency Declaration was implemented last year, the Board of Directors immediately decided to follow the federal guidelines regarding covering testing and related office visit at 100%. Later, in accordance with federal guidelines, the Board of Directors expanded 100% coverage to all COVID related expenses.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the MEUHP Board of Directors voted to continue 100% coverage of all COVID related expenses through the current end of the Federal COVID Emergency Declaration, which currently ends on July 20, 2021. We are not aware of any other health insurance groups serving Missouri schools that have offered such generous COVID coverage to their members.

We are also working on a summer newsletter for your employees and retirees to provide information and resources to assist them with their personal health, saving money through wellness programs and incentives. We intend to mail a hard copy to members along with a new fridge magnet for the Employee Assistance Plan. For more information about the EAP and other benefits, please visit [www.meuhp.com](http://www.meuhp.com) and click on resource library.

I hope you are able to enjoy a nice break this summer. You've earned it. Thanks for all you do for your students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

Ken Cook  
Executive Director  
Missouri Educators Unified Health Plan, Inc.  
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