



NOTICE

**Business Enterprise Council
CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, January 25, 2021

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: Webex Meeting

MINUTES

I. Welcome

Chair Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Call to Order

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm. Carlos Gutierrez proceeded with roll call.

III. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Quorum was established.

| BEP Certification Subcommittee | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS | | | | |
| Members | Present | | | Absent |
| | In person Chicago | In person Springfield | via WebEx | |
| Sharla Roberts, Chair | | | x | |
| Bola Delano | | | x | |
| Jaime DiPaulo | | | | x |
| Beth Doria | | | | x |



| | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Karen Eng | | | X | |
| Larry Ivory | | | X | |
| Sharron Matthews | | | X | |
| Edward McKinnie | | | | X |

Note: Meeting was held via WebEx video conference to adhere to the social distancing guidelines, due to the COVID -19/Coronavirus pandemic.

Agency Representatives

| BEP Certification Subcommittee | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives | | | | |
| Agency | Representative | Present | | |
| | | In person - Chicago | In person - Springfield | via WebEx |
| Central Management Services | Kori Acosta | | | |
| | Carlos Gutiérrez | | | |
| | Paul Kuchuris | | | |
| | Radhika Lakhani | | | X |
| | Marina Ponce | | | |
| | Ivan Ramirez | | | |
| | Rebecca Roussell | | | |

Total: 7 CMS and other Agency Employees attended this meeting.



IV. Posted Business

a. Approval of the Minutes for November 23, 2020, BEP Certification Subcommittee Meeting

Member Eng motioned to approve the minutes from November 23, 2020. Member Ivory seconded. All agreed. The minutes were approved.

b. Appeal(s):

1. Complete Care Management Partners, LLC

- a. Ms. Jessica Pickens introduced CEO and Co-Founder Dr. Cheryl Rucker-Whitaker, who was joining her in the meeting as well. She thanked BEP for allowing them to present their petition to approve their company to participate based on the exception criteria contained in JCAR Admin Code Title 44 Section 10.64 Subsection b.
- b. Ms. Pickens informed the subcommittee that their petition's outcome is imperative to both Meridian Health and a second MCO in fulfilling their BEP goal.
- c. Ms. Pickens stated that they currently employ 23 full-time staff, 78% are women, 87% are minorities, 18 are African American, and 2 are Latino. If not approved, their contract would end sooner, and they would have to shut down their business, leading to the loss of those 23 jobs.
- d. Ms. Pickens reported they are poised to hire 23 additional staff members to meet their pending 2nd client's needs and commit to the same hiring pattern.
- e. Ms. Pickens described that the majority of those positions earn average salaries from \$60-80 with full benefits including health care, 401K, and paid time off. She stated that this demonstrates that Complete Care Management Partners, LLC, would significantly impact the employment of women and minorities in the State of Illinois and respectfully requests the committees' approval of their petition to be allowed to participate in the BEP program.
- f. Member Ivory disclosed familiarity with Ms. Pickens and Dr. Whitaker as members of the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce.



- g. Member Matthews also disclosed familiarity with Ms. Pickens and Dr. Whitaker through their courageous work in putting together Obamacare with the IL Department of Healthcare and Family Services.
- h. Member Delano disclosed having worked closely with Ms. Pickens and Dr. Whitaker as well.

2. TotalMed Holdings, Inc.

- a. Mr. Zack Nabbefeld noted that TotalMed Holdings, Inc. had surpassed the cap for the past three years. He stated if they were to lose BEP certification, they would lose their contracts and the staff they employ.
- b. Mr. Nabbefeld stated that 70% of the employees hired with the contracts are minority, and close to 90% are female, which is the basis of their appeal.
- c. Member Matthews asked if they plan for future hiring and contracts. Mr. Nabbefeld stated they would have the ability to get new contracts. Mr. Gutierrez confirmed this.
- d. Chair Roberts asked if they plan to increase hiring. Mr. Nabbefeld confirmed they do and have a project to hire several hundred people with consistent demographic percentages.
- e. Member Matthews asked how many of these individuals will be internal management. Mr. Nabbefeld replied that their CEO is a minority and that is all they have.
- f. Mr. Nabbefeld pointed out that their company has made a positive impact on Medicaid health plans in the community through their staffing, which is why it is very important for them.

Member Eng motioned to move to an executive session to discuss the appeals presented today; member Delano seconded the motion. All agreed. The motion was carried.

Deliberations were held, votes taken, and the following recommendations were made:



- **Complete Care Management Partners, LLC** – Recommendation was made for the approval of the exception.
- **TotalMed Holdings, Inc.** – Recommendation was made for the approval of the exception.

V. Upcoming Business Enterprise Council & Subcommittee meeting dates:

- Next Council Meeting – Monday, February 22, 2021
- Next Certification Subcommittee Meeting – Monday, March 22, 2021
- Next Outreach Subcommittee Meeting – Tuesday, January 26, 2021
- Next Compliance Subcommittee Meeting – Wednesday, January 27, 2021

VI. Public / Vendor Testimony

Chair Roberts asked if there was public/vendor testimony. There was none.

Chair Roberts welcomed Ariel Johnson, the new BEP Deputy Director, and gave her the floor for introductions.

Ms. Johnson thanked everyone and stated she was excited to have joined CMS/BEP recently. She said she is from the city of Detroit and grew up on the North West side in a neighborhood that is still working to survive, strive and grow to be self-sufficient. Ms. Johnson affirmed this is where she got her introduction to community work through the faith-based community and Habitat for Humanity. She recounted that she became an entrepreneur in the hospitality industry, starting a staffing agency called Fierce Staffing & Consulting, which was a social enterprise invested in ensuring that members in the underserved community had access to a livable wage.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Mayor of Detroit caught wind of some of the work she was doing primarily in Atlanta, Chicago, and Detroit and asked her to come over and help run the Operations for the Civil Rights Inclusion Opportunities Department. She described that the work that she did for Mayor Michael Duggan was to ensure that 51% of Detroiters, which she reported Detroit is an 85% black city, had access to Development Project work opportunities worth about \$75 million to the city.

Ms. Johnson stated she monitored all the compliance associated with that as well as the Civil Rights Department. She said they hosted events called “Let’s Talk About Race” and the



ILLINOIS

JB Pritzker, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Janel L. Forde, Director

1st march across the McNamara Bridge over to historic Belle Isle where some race riots took place in the 40's. Ms. Johnson noted she was most proud of the work they did during COVID to help businesses recover. She stated it was very important for her to show her son what it was like to create equity and create opportunities. The Council Members welcomed Ms. Johnson.

VII. Adjournment

Member Ivory motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Matthews seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.