

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF WORKSHOP

Health Insurance
May 29, 2008

The Board met in workshop session duly called at 9 a.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Janie Williams, Chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, F. Wesley Eubank, and Eileen F. Roy, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent. Members of the Insurance Committee were also in attendance.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA President and Insurance Committee co-chair, conducted a PowerPoint presentation for the Board, beginning with the history of the Insurance Committee and some changes that have been implemented over the years since its inception in 1976. The Committee's core beliefs and long-range plans were noted. Current health plans and costs were reviewed in some detail. Board questions were responded to by Dr. Paulson and other members of the Committee.

Dr. Paulson presented a summary of the enhancements to the Blue Options Generation II, BlueMedicare Advantage Plan, BCBS Group Medicare Supplement Plan, and Health Savings Accounts (HSA). Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) were discussed at some length, with Mr. Eubank stating that if HRAs were to be considered, some additional information would be required. A comparison of HSAs and HRAs was presented, including both advantages and disadvantages. The Committee recommends offering employees the opportunity for an HRA through a high deductible health plan, and will make implementation recommendations if that is approved.

The Committee recommends Blue Options Generation II, HRAs, use of EZ Card, Domestic Partner coverage, and expansion of Wellness programs, for which they provided some recommendations. The Committee has placed discussion of the BCBS Supplement on hold, pending further information. The subject of Dental/Vision is also on hold for review and for discussion of dental concerns.

Mrs. Childs commented that it is incumbent upon the Board to educate employees on their insurance options. Mr. Eubank thanked Dr. Paulson and the Committee members for the presentation. Mrs. Pinkoson stated that she is convinced the District's low insurance rates are due to the work of the Insurance Committee.

Dr. Boyd introduced insurance consultant David Kniseley, who will represent the Board in negotiating rates, after the Board selects the plans they wish to pursue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.