

**State of Kansas Employees Health Care Commission  
January 23, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The State of Kansas Employees Health Care Commission (HCC) meeting was called to order on January 23, 2020 at 10:05 am. The meeting was conducted via conference call following publication to the State of Kansas's Public Square web portal. The following persons were present: Chair DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D; Commissioners Steve Dechant; Ximena Garcia, M.D.; Vicki Schmidt; Heather Young. Mike Michael, SEHP director, and Michael Smith, SEHP legal counsel, from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Division of Health Care Finance (HCF) and John Yeary, Department of Administration legal counsel, were also in attendance.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Flu Vaccination Program**

Mike Michael notified the HCC that the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) participated in a call at the request of BioIQ on December 27, 2019 to discuss the flu vaccination program. During the call, BioIQ stated a corporate decision was made to not offer their onsite flu vaccination program beginning in 2020 and will focus on other company initiatives. The first year of the contract with BioIQ would have begun January 1, 2020. The BioIQ contract cost per dose would have been \$31 per vaccine administered for 2020.

The SEHP began offering onsite flu vaccinations in 2009. In 2018, the onsite vaccinations were offered in 44 cities with 119 events and 5,454 individuals received their vaccination. Over the last 3 years, on average, 28,758 members receive the flu vaccination either from one of the onsite events or another medical provider. During this three-year period, on average, 4,852 members received the vaccination at an onsite event and 23,726 (82%) received the vaccination from another medical provider. The average cost during this period was \$27.73 for an onsite vaccination and \$25.82 from another medical provider. The flu vaccination is covered at 100% under the preventive services benefit by the health plan when administered by a network provider, so there is no cost to member.

The flu vaccination program begins mid-September 2020, which allows time to address this news and make a decision on the onsite flu vaccination program.

Mike Michael presented some potential options for discussion for plan year 2020.

1. An RFP can be released for a flu vaccination program vendor
2. KDHE Public Health has offered to administer the onsite flu vaccine for 2020
  - a. The cost proposal for KDHE to administer the program is \$19.38 per dose
3. The Commission can elect to not offer the onsite flu vaccination program
  - a. Members have several options to receive the flu vaccination (Medical Provider, Pharmacy, HealthQuest Health Center, and multiple other options)

For **Option #1**, Mike Michael presented a cost comparison sheet that included quotes from the vendors that participated in the previous RFP process.

**State of Kansas**

**2019 Flu Vaccination Program RFP**

**Cost summary**

State Employee Health Plan	BioIQ	Maxim	Occuvax
Year 1 Quadrivalent Thimerosal Free Single dosage	\$31.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Year 2 Quadrivalent Thimerosal Free single dosage	\$31.00	\$30.00	\$31.00
Year 3 Quadrivalent Thimerosal Free Single dosage	\$31.00	\$30.00	\$32.00

State Employee Health Plan	BioIQ	Maxim	Occuvax
Year 1 Quadrivalent Thimerosal Free Single dosage, privacy screens, single sign on and travel	\$169,074	\$180,491	\$171,300
Year 2 Quadrivalent Thimerosal Free Single dosage, privacy screens and travel	\$169,074	\$177,991	\$176,998
Year 3 Quadrivalent Thimerosal Free Single dosage, privacy screens and travel	\$169,074	\$177,991	\$182,696
Total	\$507,222	\$536,473	\$530,994

Mike Michael pointed out the difference in the proposals: charges for travel, privacy screens and vaccination cost over three years. BioIQ, had a minimum requirement for each onsite location. In addition to the single dose cost, Maxim would also charge \$.54 per mile and \$110 per hotel room night to reimburse staff for travel. Maxim would also charge \$2,500 for a single sign-on during the first year of the contract. Occu-vax charged for the rental of privacy screens. BioIQ's bid of \$31 was all-inclusive with no additional add-ons. We had three bidders for the Last RFP so we may not receive a large difference in the number or pricing of bids for this program.

**Option #2** would be to work with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Public Health to administer the program for 2020. KDHE sent a cost proposal stating they could administer the program for \$19.38 per dose with no additional costs.

Should the Commission wish to proceed with this option, legal counsel would draft an MOU to be signed by KDHE and the HCC.

**Option #3**, should the Commission elect, would be to not offer the onsite clinics in 2020, but direct plan members to locations in which they could get the shot, covered at 100% by their health plan.

Commissioner Schmidt acknowledged the value of the program for employees. She asked if the SEHP approached KDHE prior to the previous RFP publication and if their proposal offers onsite clinics statewide, or just in Topeka. She also asked how the scheduling on Topeka clinics would work, wanting to ensure recipients don't have to wait a long time in a line to receive a vaccination.

Mike Michael stated that KDHE was not contacted prior to the most recent RFP publication. Prior to 2009, KDHE did administer the vaccination program; however, they lost funding and asked SEHP if it would be possible for them to take over the clinics. That is when SEHP published the first RFP. When our vendor experienced delivery issues this past fall, KDHE reached out and provided a proposal to once again provide the onsite clinics for the Commission to consider.

The Topeka Marathon Health Clinic is willing to assist the Commission and the SEHP to deliver Flu vaccinations in their Topeka clinic. They could also look into doing onsite clinics but haven't explored that option yet. They currently deliver the vaccination at a cost of \$23.

Chair DeAngela Burns-Wallace stated that the focus of the Commission over the past few months has been to make informed decisions with the appropriate supporting strategies and plans in place. With that in mind, she stated it would be tight to attempt an RFP for the 2020 program. We have a viable and economical option with KDHE for 2020. She urged commissioners to strongly consider the KDHE proposal for 2020 while the Commission can continue conversations and research to see what is necessary for a long-term strategy.

A question was raised by Department of Administration Legal Counsel John Yeary regarding KSA 75-6504(b) requiring bidding and proposals. Would the Commission need to publish a bid event in order to accept the KDHE proposal for 2020?

Mike Smith, KDHE legal counsel stated that his interpretation is that the state is not required to publish a bid event when it can provide the service to itself.

Commissioners Schmidt, Garcia and Young expressed their preference for working with KDHE for 2020 in order to allow additional time for research and bid publication should that be necessary.

Commissioner Schmidt expressed frustration with the vendor cancelling the contract with the state, leaving us with a challenging situation. She mentioned she wished there were legal avenues we could pursue. She also thanked KDHE and Secretary Norman for their willingness to provide this service.

Commissioner Burns-Wallace suggested that this topic be added to the regularly scheduled HCC meetings so the Commission can continue to address this service for 2020 and begin the process for 2021.

There was a motion by Commissioner Schmidt to have the HCC enter into an MOU with KDHE Bureau of Public Health to administer the onsite flu vaccination program for 2020 without restricting them to their proposed cost, just to be able to administer the program for 2020.

Commissioner Dechant declared a second.

Chair Burns-Wallace conducted a roll-call vote with the motion passing without opposition.

Chair Burns-Wallace requested that Mike Michael ensure this is a topic for the next meeting, planning to provide additional information from KDHE on what they are able to provide, associated costs and associated timeline. We will also need to know what our decision-making timeline looks like as a Commission should we need to publish a bid event for 2021.

Chair Burns-Wallace asked for any additional topics of discussion, with none raised, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.