

Paraeducator Health Care Working Group Meeting Notes

June 12, 2024

Members Present: Susan Rich-Bye (Access Health CT); Madi Csejka (State Comptroller's Office); Daniel Livingston (Paraeducators Unions)

Other: Marcin Olechowski (Access Health CT); Julie Andrews (Wakely Consulting)

- Additional proposed revisions have been offered by the State Comptroller's Office; additional plan design and premium information was provided by the Comptroller's office and included.
- Suggested revisions were incorporated into the draft report.
- Julia Andrews also summarized the High Deductible Health Plan Options and their affordability.
- Daniel Livingston: inquiry about how many school days are taken into account for the representative salaries for paraeducators; it is usually between 180 and 200 days.
- With regard to premiums— any premium amounts other than for a single person are significantly higher – it may be a part of the collective bargaining agreement.
- Potential tax consequences for premium subsidies; if the GA were to subsidize the coverage through the employer BOE, there would be no tax implication for the paraeducator employee; Madi Csejka noted that it is not specifically in the legislation but it is implied.
- The analysis of what the State may have to spend would be helpful – we do not have those figures.
- Dan Livingston enumerated various options pertaining to the High Deductible Health Plans; how affordable would it be after an individual meets the deductible.
- Dan Livingston: there is a significant benefit in encouraging employers to provide medical insurance that keep people healthier with comprehensive coverage (to paraeducators) since paraeducators' services are much less expensive to their employers (if they were to be replaced by, for instance, by substitute teachers).
- Days worked in school year for paraeducators: update the report to use 180 days with 7 hours per day for the analysis.
- Wakely to make further updates to the draft report and send to the group next week so that group can meet one more time before finalizing the report to submit to legislature by July 1 deadline.