

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESSED SESSION – March 27, 2023**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the Commissioner's Board Room, 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

**Members Present**

David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis; Lynn Greene

**Members Absent**

Tony G. Brown, Chairman

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Director; Anna Lee, HR Director

**Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

**Insurance Workshop**

County Manager Ashley Wooten presented the County allocation self-insurance fund. The actual June 30 County costs current year-to-date is \$2,622,330.24 with the prior year's same year-to-date being \$3,270,465.94. That percentage change is -19.82%. The estimated budget change is \$3,888,132.66 with an estimated amendment being \$-1,195,732.66.

**Implemented Strategies**

- Moved Third Party Administrator (TPA) from Blue Cross Blue Shield NC (BCBSNC) to MedCost; the new TPA allows the County to select different offerings such as the Pharmacy Benefit Manager and Transplant services that were unavailable under BCBSNC.

**Ongoing Strategies**

- Implemented blood screening and annual well-checks several years prior
- Continue to offer wellness/well-being offerings such as lunch and learns, no-cost incentive programs, and organized activities

**Possible Strategies**

- Move disease management from an option to a mandate for employees who have triggered certain diagnoses such as diabetes. Current participation is very low (approximately 6 members out of a potential 40)

- Could develop an on-site or near-site employee health clinic. Similar clinics serve employees and sometimes spouses and dependents with basic primary care. Clinics are also often used for drug screenings and workers' compensation checks.

There was considerable discussion amongst the Board regarding insurance for the next fiscal year. The Board consensus was to look at a near-site employee health clinic.

### **Commissioner Comment**

Vice-Chairman Walker mentioned current discrepancies with the McDowell County School Board considering working with Dream Builders Communication Inc.

Each Commissioner expressed their personal concerns with this program in McDowell County.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to write a formal letter of request to the McDowell County School Board to move their April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to East McDowell Middle School, vote to remove the Dream Builders Communication Inc. from the agenda, and if they can't remove the item from the agenda then urge them to vote "no" to the Dream Builders Communication Inc. proposal, seconded by Commissioner Ellis.

There was further discussion from Commissioner Ellis surrounding reconsidering County funds that the Board of Education receives.

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn at 12:27 p.m. seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Attest:

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Victoria Craig  
Clerk to the Board

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David N. Walker  
Vice-Chairman