

**SISC III  
HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2008 - 1:00 P.M.**

**A G E N D A**

**I. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- |    |   |                |
|----|---|----------------|
| A. | Approval of Minutes for August 2008 Board of Directors Meeting                          | Russell Bigler |
| B. | Report of Activity for the Month of August 2008 and ratification of payment as follows: | Russell Bigler |

|   |               |                        |
|---|---------------|------------------------|
| DELTA DENTAL CLAIMS                               | 5,459,201.06  |                        |
| SISC ASO  | 358,123.60    |                        |
| DENTAL COALITION CLAIMS                           | 917,023.73    |                        |
| DENTAL COALITION ASO                              | 60,156.76     |                        |
| DELTACARE/PMI PREMIUM                             | 0.00          |                        |
| <b>TOTAL DENTAL</b>                               |               | <b>\$6,794,505.15</b>  |
| VISION SERVICE CLAIMS                             | 1,156,088.29  |                        |
| VSP ASO   | 91,732.30     |                        |
| MES CLAIMS  | 28,832.53     |                        |
| MES ASO   | 4,388.33      |                        |
| <b>TOTAL VISION</b>                               |               | <b>\$1,281,041.45</b>  |
| PACIFICARE/BEHAV HEALTH                           | 446,236.59    |                        |
| CIGNA BEHAV. HEALTH (MCC SLECT)                   | 12,792.26     |                        |
| SECURE HORIZONS PREM (PACIFICARE)                 | 5,400.00      |                        |
| SENIOR ADVANTAGE PREM (KAISER)                    | 40,376.20     |                        |
| SENIORITY PLUS PREM (HEALTHNET)                   | 37,976.00     |                        |
| BLUE SHIELD HMO PREMIUM                           | 507,375.02    |                        |
| BLUE SHIELD FULLY INSURED PPO                     | 16,904.66     |                        |
| HEALTH NET PREMIUM                                | 1,660,456.69  |                        |
| CALIFORNIA CARE PREMIUM                           | 941,557.00    |                        |
| KAISER PREMIUM                                    | 2,514,757.20  |                        |
| UNITED HEALTHCARE (FORMERLY PACIFIC UNION DENTAL) | 1,107.00      |                        |
| UNITED HEALTHCARE SPECIALTY BENEFITS (LIFE)       | 106,748.30    |                        |
| NAT'L BENEFIT RESOURCES (STOP LOSS)               | 57,593.25     |                        |
| BLUE CROSS HEALTH CLAIMS                          | 40,807,726.16 |                        |
| BLUE SHIELD HEALTH CLAIMS                         | 5,451,418.63  |                        |
| BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLAIMS                          | 314,568.44    |                        |
| ITS CLAIMS  | 1,551,886.59  |                        |
| COMPANION CARE CLAIMS                             | 194,740.76    |                        |
| <b>TOTAL BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD CLAIMS</b>    |               | <b>\$48,320,340.58</b> |

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|  |              |                        |
|--|--------------|------------------------|
| BLUE CROSS NETWORK ASO                         | 1,244,711.07 |                        |
| FOUNDATION ADJUDICATION ASO                    | 560,701.44   |                        |
| BLUE SHIELD ASO                                | 165,642.25   |                        |
| BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASO                          | 158,391.52   |                        |
| ITS ASO  | 101,905.90   |                        |
| COMPANION CARE ASO                             | 49,651.83    |                        |
| <b>TOTAL BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD ADMIN.</b> |              | <b>\$2,281,004.01</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD</b>        |              | <b>\$50,601,344.59</b> |
| MERCK CLAIMS                                   | 9,997,771.11 |                        |
| ASO-COPAY                                      | 274,120.30   |                        |
| CLAIMS - DISCOUNT CARD                         | 67,084.60    |                        |
| ASO - DISCOUNT CARD                            | 2,145.49     |                        |
| CLAIMS - MEDICARE PART D                       | 378,848.01   |                        |
| ASO - MEDICARE PART D                          | 11,900.73    |                        |
| AHC - CLAIMS                                   | 1,966,275.94 |                        |
| AHC - ASO                                      | 77,449.40    |                        |
| <b>TOTAL RX CLAIMS</b>                         |              | <b>\$12,775,595.58</b> |
| <b>TOTAL BC, BSC AND RX</b>                    |              | <b>\$63,376,940.17</b> |

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Financial Report - Financial Statements For Prior Month Presented For Approval Cindy Sproles
- B. Request Approval of the 2008-2009 Budget Cindy Sproles

**IV. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Monthly SISC PPO Trend History Through August 2008 John Stenerson
- B. Show the Board a Letter from a Member on Balance Billing Russell Bigler
- C. Update the Board on the California Health Care Coalition Russell Bigler
- D. Show the Board an Article from the L.A. Times on Wellpoint, Inc. Russell Bigler
- E. Update the Board on SB 840 Russell Bigler
- F. Show the Board a Newspaper Article on Medical Re-pricing Russell Bigler
- G. Review the Investment Policy Russell Bigler
- H. Comments from the Board of Directors Will Be Heard
- I. Adjournment
- J. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2008  
1:00 p.m.  
SISC Board Room - City Centre

**Any materials required by law to be made available to the public prior to a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Joint Powers Authority can be inspected at the following address during normal business hours at 1300 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Bakersfield, Ca. 93301**

## SISC III HEALTH BENEFITS TERMINOLOGY

**Adjudication:** Determination of the amount of payment for a claim.

**Administrative Services Only (ASO):** An arrangement under which an insurance carrier or an independent organization will, for a fee, handle the administration of claims, benefits and other administrative functions for a self-insured group but does not assume any financial risk for the payment of benefits.

**Adverse Events/Never Events:** Accidents that happen in hospitals that are considered preventable.

**Balance bill:** Refers to the leftover sum that a provider bills to the patient after insurance has only partially paid the charge that was initially billed.

**Best of Both Worlds Service:** An American board-certified surgeon(s) travels with the patient to perform procedures overseas.

**Calendar Year Deductible:** The dollar amount for covered services that must be paid during the calendar year (January 1 – December 31) by members before any benefits are paid by the Plan.

**Centers of Expertise (COE) Network:** The network of health care providers that have entered into contracts with the carrier and/or one or more of its affiliates. These providers have agreed to participate in a transplant program or other designated specialty program that is/are to be based upon the member's benefit agreements.

**Coinsurance:** An arrangement under which the member pays a fixed percentage of the cost of medical care after the deductible has been paid. For example, an insurance plan might pay 80% of the allowable charge, with the member responsible for the remaining 20%, which is then referred to as the coinsurance amount.

**Coinsurance Maximum:** The total amount of coinsurance that an individual pays each year before the carrier pays 100% of allowable charges for covered services. Coinsurance amounts differ with each contract.

**Condition Care:** Helps promote and improve the overall health status and quality of life of members and helps promote and/or prevent disease progression and avoid and/or prevent the complications associated with the conditions.

**Coordination of Benefits:** The anti-duplication provision to limit benefits for multiple group health insurance in a particular case to 100% of the covered charges and to designate the order in which the multiple carriers are to pay benefits. Under a COB provision, one Plan is determined to be primary and its benefits are applied to the claim. The unpaid balance is usually paid by the secondary Plan to the limit of its liability.

**Co-Payment:** The fixed dollar amount a patient pays for a medical service.

**Deductible:** An amount the covered person must pay before payments for covered services begin. The deductible is usually a fixed amount. For example, an insurance plan might require the insured to pay the first \$250 of covered expense during a calendar year.

**Dependent:** Person, (spouse or child), other than the subscriber who is covered under the subscriber's benefit certificate.

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP):** A worksite-based program that is designed to assist in the identification and resolution of productivity problems associated with personal concerns of employees. The program provides employees and their dependents with access to confidential, short-term counseling by qualified practitioners, in person or over the phone.

**Explanation of Benefits (EOB):** A form sent to the covered person after a claim for payment has been processed by the carrier that explains the action taken on that claim. This explanation might include the amount that will be paid, the benefits available, reasons for denying payment, or the claims appeal process.

**Flexible Spending Account:** Accounts that let workers set aside pre-tax money from their paycheck toward premiums or costs not covered by their health plan, such as co-payments. All the money must be used within the plan year or it is lost.

**Health Assessment** – More companies are asking workers to fill out such assessments, which give health improvement tips. Companies can give workers financial incentives to do so.

**Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA):** A federal health benefits law passed in 1996, effective July 1, 1997, which among other things, restricts pre-existing condition exclusion periods to ensure portability of health-care coverage between plans, group and individual; requires guaranteed issue and renewal of insurance coverage; prohibits plans from charging individuals higher premiums, co-payments, and/or deductibles based on health status.

**Health Maintenance Organization (HMO):** An organization that provides a wide range of comprehensive health care services for a specified group at a fixed periodic payment; a prepaid health care plan under which people may enroll by paying a set annual fee. Members then receive all the medical services they need through a group of contracting doctors and hospitals, often with no additional co-payments or fees. Members are generally limited to using providers designated by the HMO.

**Health Savings Account:** The accounts are paired with a high deductible. Employees can fund these accounts, tax-free, to help offset the deductible. Employers can also fund such plans. Money not used within the plan year is rolled over to the next year.

**ID Card/Identification Card:** A card issued by a carrier to a covered person, which allows the individual to identify himself or his covered dependents to a provider for health care services. The card is subsequently used by the provider to determine benefit levels and to prepare billing statement.

**IBNR:** An acronym for "incurred but not reported". This is an accounting estimate used by health plans to accrue for care that was provided "incurred" in one accounting period, but not paid or "reported" until another accounting period.

**In-Network:** Refers to the use of providers who participate in the carrier's provider network. Many benefit plans encourage covered persons to use participating (in-network) providers to reduce the individual's out of pocket expense.

**Lifetime Maximum:** Maximum amount the plan will pay toward a member's coverage in a lifetime.

**Medical Tourism:** To have medical care outside the United States.

**Medigap:** A private insurance policy purchased by many of the elderly to pay for expenses not covered by Medicare.

**Negotiated Rate:** The amount participating providers agree to accept as payment in full for covered services. It is usually lower than their normal charge. Negotiated rates are determined by Participating Provider Agreements.

**Open Enrollment:** For employers with a dual or multiple choice of health plans, the annual time period in which employees can select among the plans offered.

**Out-Of-Network:** The use of health care providers who have not contracted with the carrier to provide services. HMO members are generally not reimbursed if they go out-of-network except in emergency situations. Covered persons of preferred provider organizations and HMOs with point-of-service options may go out-of-network, but must pay additional costs including deductibles and co-insurance.

**Participating Provider:** A physician, hospital, pharmacy, laboratory or other appropriately licensed provider of health care services or supplies, that has entered into an agreement with a managed care entity to provide such services or supplies to a patient enrolled in a health benefit plan.

**Pre-Authorization:** A procedure used to review and assess the medical necessity and appropriateness of elective hospital admissions and non-emergency outpatient services before the services are provided.

**Preferred Provider Organization (PPO):** A type of managed care organization that has a panel of preferred providers who are paid according to a discounted fee schedule. The enrollees do have the option to go to out-of-network providers at a higher level of cost sharing.

**Reasonable and Customary:** The amount customarily charged for the service by other physicians in the area (often defined as a specific percentile of all charges in the community) and the reasonable cost of services for a given patient after medical review of the case. Also known as Usual and Customary (U&C) or Customary and Reasonable (C&R).

**Skilled Nursing Facility:** An institution (or a distinct part of an institution) that is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services for patients who require medical care, nursing care or rehabilitation services.

**Subscriber:** The individual in whose name a contract is issued or the employee covered under an employer's group health contract.

**Transparency.** With regard to medical care it means: The ability for patients to have easy access to understandable information about the cost and quality of their health care options. They should be able to obtain this information from their health plan and medical providers prior to the time of treatment.



September 24, 2008

TO: SISC III Board of Directors  
FROM: Russell E. Bigler, Chief Executive Officer  
SUBJECT: Approval of 2008-2009 Budget

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The 2008-2009 budget will be presented at the Board Meeting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

It is respectfully requested that the Board approve the budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

REB:clp

**SISC III**  
**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2008**

- A. **Monthly SISC PPO Trend History Through August 2008.** The monthly SISC PPO Trend History through August 2008 will be presented.
- B. **Show the Board a Letter from a Member on Balance Billing.** Over the past several months I have shown you information concerning balance billing as it relates to the emergency room. Enclosed is a letter from a member where they were balanced billed \$46,654.57. The total bill was \$68,009.57. This means, per the non par fee schedule, which is not that bad, SISC paid \$21,355. Remember, it's not that the insurance didn't pay well, it's that without a contract, the provider can charge anything they want.
- C. **Update the Board on the California Health Care Coalition.** The California Health Care Coalition, CHCC, is made up of the entities on the attachment. As you can see, SISC is a member.

The mission and the goals of the CHCC are on the next attachment. They put out a bi-monthly newsletter they call the "Flash News" and it makes up the next attachment. The California Education Coalition for Health Care Reform is also a member and is just for schools.

- The following two attachments show how they have regionalized CECHCR members.

- D. **Show the Board an Article from the Wall Street Journal on Wellpoint, Inc.** This is a good article to talk about the biggest entity with which we partner. Wellpoint is the parent company of Anthem Blue Cross.
- SISC III is self-insured. District premiums come to SISC and these premiums earn interest. This money is used to pay the claims and all other bills. There is either money left or more money needed. Since we only rent their network and pay for some other services, we don't care that much about what is happening to Wellpoint stock and their various financial statements.
  - Fully Insured – This is where an entity pays one of the various subsidiaries of Wellpoint a premium and their claims are paid. This is where Wellpoint either makes or loses money.

- E. **Update the Board on SB 840.** We all know health care, especially in California, is in a true crisis with devastating consequences that are affecting all of us. There are many, many variations, but there are two main thoughts on how to solve this:

**Single Payor** – SB 840 is a single payor bill by Senator Sheila Kuehl. It has passed both houses and is on the Governor's desk. He vetoed it before and everything points to him vetoing it this time. Basically, it would abolish almost all private health insurance in California and establish the California Healthcare Agency, which would take over the funding and delivery of health care in this state. We are very much opposed to this concept.

**Universal Health Care** – All Californians would be covered but the delivery system would remain pretty much in tact. At some point down the road, most people think something close to this will be the way health care is funded.

- F. **Show the Board a Newspaper Article on Medical Re-pricing.** This is a really good article, and carries on the theme of some of the other information items, concerning re-pricing medical claims.

**SISC III**  
**Information and Discussion Items Continued –**

- G. **Review the Investment Policy.** Given what is happening in the financial world, Cindy Sproles will review the policy. Additionally –
- As of 6/30/08 SISC III had \$80,921,013.42 with either Merrill Lynch, who just merged with Bank of America, or Wachovia which is a subsidiary of Wachovia Bank. Both banks are regular banks, not investment banks.
  - The only portion of this money in question is \$991,742.50 or 1.23% that is with Lehman Brothers. Since they are senior bonds, we plan on keeping them until maturity, January 2010 unless the liquidation process takes place sooner.
  - Although this is an unrealized loss, and will effect the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, it might turn around to the point the year will be positive.
  - Lehman Brothers was rated as a A2A stock on Friday and filed Chapter 11 over the weekend. Investment Managers use the bond ratings to purchase and hold bonds. It appears the huge drop in price happened because of “naked short sales” in the market.
- H. **Comments From the Board of Directors.** Comments from members of the Board will be heard at this time.