

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS MINUTES: FEBRUARY 23, 2010

HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS

MEMBERS: Co-Chairs: J. Myers, L. Williams; Legislators: J. Testa, A. Williams, K. Jenkins

IN ATTENDANCE: **CE:** K. Delgado; **DA:** J. George; **CA:** S. Dolgin Kmetz, L. Trentacoste; **BOL:** Leg. J. Nonna (by telephone), W. Burton, S. Bass, A. Reasoner; **Press:** G. McKinstry (J. News)

With a quorum present, the Special Committee on Health Insurance Savings was called to order at 4:23 p.m.

Co-Chairman Lyndon Williams distributed legislation, which is an interim proposal for payment for county health insurance by non represented employees, while a long term solution is being worked on.

(A. Williams, J. Myers) move to recommend the adoption of an Act and Local Law to Require Non-Represented/Managerial Employees and Retirees and all County Elected Officials to contribute to the overall cost of the premium rate of the basic county health insurance plan and the adoption of a Local Law which will require County officers appointed for a fixed term to also contribute to the overall cost of the premium rate of the basic County health insurance plan during their current terms of office.

Stacy Dolgin-Kmetz, Chief Deputy County Attorney and Linda Trentacoste, Associate County Attorney spoke to the Committee about the details of the legislation.

All non-represented/ managerial employees and retirees who have less than five years of County service will pay 15%, those with five years or more, but less than ten will pay 10%, those who have ten years or more but less than twenty years will pay 5% and those who have twenty or more years will pay 0%. This type of tiered system is used in other counties and private businesses.

People who retire before this Act is enacted will continue to pay what they are currently paying. Employees who retire after the effective date and

select the family plan will be required to contribute the greater of either the percentages laid out by years of service with respect to the overall cost of the premium rate of the basic County health insurance plan; or 20% of the difference between the cost of the family plan and the individual plan. This will ensure that people who choose the family plan will not be paying less than they are now.

There was a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of passing something based on salary level as opposed to years of service.

A Local Law is included because we can not apply this measure by Act, to County elected officials and County officers appointed for a fixed term during their current terms of office.

Co-chair Williams stated that after today we will start a joint process with the County Executive office to have experts come in to review and revamp our entire health benefit program. That will maximize the cost savings to the County.

The committee will ask the Budget Department to provide documentation for the Budget and Appropriations Committee to review which analyzes the cost difference between this plan and the 15% plan.

Motion approved 5-0 (Without Prejudice-Testa)

(Testa, A. Williams) Move to adjourn the Committee on Health Insurance Savings. Motion approved 5-0. The Committee on Health Insurance Savings adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST