

SOUTHERN SKYLAND REGIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

HEALTH BENEFITS RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Effective: JANUARY 1, 2025

Adopted: JANUARY 14, 2025

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2025 HEALTH BENEFITS RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following shall be the Fund's Risk Management Plan for the 2025 Fund year for health benefits:

1.) COVERAGE OFFERED

- Medical

The Fund offers a "point of service" and "open access" plan designs. These plans have both in network and out of network benefit. The Fund can offer other plans as may meet the needs of the members. The Fund also offers "low cost plans" to allow members options to comply with contribution requirements under Chapter 78. The Fund also offers Medicare Advantage programs and/or Medicare Supplement programs for retirees.

- Dental

The Fund plans to offer customized dental plans as required by the members but does not do so at the current time. The Fund allows for members to pass fully insured dental products through the budget.

- Prescription

The Fund offers customized prescription plans as required by the members, including plans that are coordinated with the low cost medical plan options.

- Vision

The Fund plans to offer customized vision plans as required by the members but does not do so at this time.

2.) LIMITS OF COVERAGE

Limits of coverage vary by member and plan design.

3.) RISK RETAINED BY THE FUND

The Fund takes no risk on Medicare Advantage and Employer Group Waiver Plan fully-insured policies purchased for Medicare retirees.

Pre-Medicare retirees and active employees and their dependents are covered by self-insured plans. Risk retained by the Fund for these plans is summarized as follows:

Medical and Prescription:

- **Specific Coverage:** The Fund self-insures for the first \$325,000 per person, per agreement year and obtains reinsurance through HCC Life Insurance Company.
- **Aggregate Coverage:** The Fund does not purchase aggregate coverage and retains the risk for medical, prescription, dental and vision claims except those claims that may be reimbursed under its specific Coverage listed above.
- Aggregate Limit Not applicable.
- Basis: Incurred in 12 months, paid 36 months thereafter

Dental Aggregate Retention: None – Self-insured with all risk retained by Fund

Vision Aggregate Retention: None – Self-insured with all risk retained by Fund

Extra contractual claims are excluded from reinsurance coverage.

4.) **ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY TO CALCULATE CLAIM RESERVES.**

Generally, the Fund complies with statutory accounting standards and establishes reserves on the probable total claim costs as of the end of each Fund year. Each month, the accrual in the general ledger for claim reserves, including IBNR, is adjusted based on earned underwriting income and the number of months since the inception of the Fund year. This accrual is then adjusted at the end of the year in accordance with the actuary's projections.

5.) **METHODS OF ASSESSING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMBERS**

At least one month before the end of the year, the Fund adopts a budget for the upcoming year based on the most recent census. Per employee rates are computed for each line of coverage for each Fund member, and are approved by the Fund as a part of the budget adoption and rate certification process. These rates are used to compute the members' monthly assessment based on the updated census, and are provided to the members approximately 15 days before the beginning of the month. The billing also includes the member's updated census for verification each month by the local entity. Retroactive adjustments for enrollment changes are limited to 60 days. Former participants (COBRA, Conversion, Dependents to Age 31 and some retirees) are billed directly by the Fund's enrollment vendor.

6.) **COVERAGE PURCHASED FROM INSURERS**

The Fund provides medical and Rx coverage on a self-insured basis, and secures excess insurance to cap the Funds' specific (i.e. per enrolled covered person per policy year) retention. The Fund also purchases Medicare Advantage, Employer Group Waiver Programs from the commercial market for Medicare retirees and dental coverage.

7.) THE INITIAL AND RENEWAL RATING METHODOLOGIES

Upon application to the Fund, the prospective member's benefit program is reviewed by the actuary to determine its projected claim cost. In this evaluation, the actuary takes into consideration:

- a.) age/sex factor as compared to the average for the existing Fund membership;
- b.) the plan of benefits for the prospective member; and
- c.) loss data if available.

The actuary then recommends a relativity factor to either the Fund's base rates or to the rates being paid by the entity. This recommendation requires Fund approval before the prospective member is admitted to the Fund.

Rates for all members are adjusted at the beginning of each Fund year to reflect the new budget. However, entities operating on a fiscal year basis (July 1 to June 30) have the option to receive rates that are certified for a period corresponding to their fiscal year. Rates reflect the overall cash flow needs of the Fund, and actuarial factors needed to assure that individual entity rates reflect the risk profile of the member. The Fund may implement individual entity loss ratio adjustments based upon recommendations from the Fund actuary. The Fund may also adopt mid Fund year rate changes to reflect changes in plan design, participation in lines of coverage, or a budget amendment. Additionally, if a member terminates a line of coverage but continues membership for other lines of coverage, the rates for the other lines of coverage may be adjusted and the member shall not be eligible for membership in the dropped line of coverage for up to three years.

Loss experience data used by the Fund to determine loss ratio adjustments will be made available twice per year to members at no additional cost. "Loss experience data" is defined as monthly claims and assessments for a three year period including de-identified specific claims at 50% of the Fund's self insured retention. Requests for additional claims data from Fund members will be considered based upon the availability of data, the feasibility of extracting the data, and conditioned upon the member reimbursing the Fund or its vendors for data extraction and formatting costs.

8.) PARTNERSHIP HEALTH CENTER

The Fund has created a Patient Centered Health Center for its employees. The financial impact of this service model can be evaluated by the Fund actuary and prospective rates and assessments may be modified to reflect savings. To the extent that there are measurable savings or other impacts that can be attributed to Health Center's impact on the population, such savings/impact shall be attributed the member's claims.

New members within a reasonable geographic area of Somerville, NJ will have access to the Partnership Health Center and be charged on a 3 year phase in scale as utilization grows. Members outside of this geographic region will have access to the Health Center's satellite service center at a management fee only.

9.) FACTORS IF RATES FOR MEMBERS JOINING THE FUND DURING A FUND YEAR ARE TO BE ADJUSTED.

Unless otherwise authorized as part of the offer of membership, where a member joins during a Fund year, the member's initial rates are only valid through the end of that Fund year or, for schools, fiscal year, at which time the rates are adjusted for all members to reflect the new budget.

10.) PROVISION FOR PLAN DESIGN OPTIONS

The Fund offers employees the option of selecting various plans depending upon member bargaining agreements. Generally, it is the policy of the Fund to encourage selection of lower cost plan designs as opposed to traditional indemnity plans, and the Fund provides promotional material to assist members in employee communication programs concerning optional plan designs.

11.) OPEN ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Open enrollment periods shall be scheduled by the Fund at least yearly for each member and as is otherwise required to comply with plan document requirements and to effectuate plan design, network changes, and plan migrations.

12.) COBRA AND CONVERSION OPTIONS

The Fund provides COBRA coverage at a rate equal to the member's current rate and benefit plan design, plus the appropriate administrative charge. The Fund has arranged for a COBRA administrator to enroll eligible participants and to collect the premium. The Fund's coverage for individuals covered under COBRA shall terminate effective the date the member withdraws from the Fund, or otherwise ceases to be a member of the Fund.

13.) DISCLOSURE OF BENEFIT LIMITS

The Fund discloses benefit limits in plan booklets provided to all covered employees.

14.) PARTICIPATION RULES WHEN ALL OR PART OF THE PREMIUM IS DERIVED FROM EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

All assessments, including additional assessments and dividends, are the responsibility of the member, not the employee or former employee. Employee contributions, if any, are solely an internal policy of the member which shall not impact on the member's obligations to the Fund or confer any additional rights to the employees. Where the Fund directly bills an employee, (i.e. COBRA, etc.), this shall be considered as a service to reduce the member's administrative burden, and the member shall be responsible in the event of non-payment.

15.) RETIREES

The Fund duplicates coverage for eligible retirees not eligible or enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan. The Fund's coverage of a retiree shall terminate effective the date the member local unit

withdraws from the Fund for a specific line of coverage, or otherwise ceases to be a member of the Fund.

16.) NEWBORN CHILDREN

You may remove family members from the policy at any time, but you may only add members within sixty (60) days of the change in family status (marriage, birth of a child, etc.). It is your responsibility to notify your employer of needed changes. If family members cease to be eligible, claims will not be paid. The actual change in coverage (and the corresponding change in premium) will not take place until you have formally requested that change. Newborn children, but not grandchildren of an eligible employee, shall be automatically covered from birth for thirty-one (31) days, even if not enrolled within the required sixty (60) days. In the event of an eligible dependent giving birth to a child, (a grandchild) benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn grandchild will apply for up to 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, the mother's or newborn grandchild's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, may discharge the mother or her newborn grandchild earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable).

17.) PLAN DOCUMENT

The Fund contracts for the preparation of a detailed plan document for each member local unit (or each employee bargaining group within a member local unit as the case may be), and an employee handbook provides a summary of the coverage provided by the plan. Each booklet (or certificate) shall contain at least the following information and be provided to all covered employees.

A.) General Information

- Enrollment procedures and eligibility.
- Dependent eligibility.
- When coverage begins.
- When can coverage be changed.
- When does coverage end.
- COBRA provisions.
- Conversion privilege.

B.) Benefits

- Definitions.
- Description of benefits.

Eligible services and supplies.

Deductibles and co-payments.

Examples as needed.

Exclusions.

Retiree coverage, before age 65 or after (if any).

C.) Claims Procedures

- Submission of claim.
- Proof of loss.
- Appeal procedures.

D.) Cost Containment Programs

- Pre-admission.
- Second surgical opinion.
- Other cost containment programs.
- Application and level of employee penalties.

18.) PROCEDURES FOR THE CLOSURE OF FUND YEARS

Approximately six months after the end of a Fund year, the Fund evaluates the results to determine if dividends or additional assessments are warranted. Most claims are paid within twelve months of year end, and at that time the Fund begins to consider closing the year, unless excess insurance recoveries are pending or litigation is likely. A member entity will be eligible to participate in the dividend provided that its pro rata share of the Fund's surplus account is greater than two (2) months of said member entity's projected claims expense (the "retention amount") and shall be paid from amounts in excess of the established retention amount.

When the Fund determines that a Fund year should be closed:

- A reserve is established by the actuary to cover any unpaid claims or IBNR
- The Fund decides on the final dividend or supplemental assessment.
- A closure resolution is adopted transferring all remaining assets and liabilities of that Fund year to the "Closed Fund Year/Contingency Account".
- Each member's pro rata share of the residual assets are computed and added to its existing balance in the Closed Fund Year/Contingency Account. Any member who has withdrawn from the Fund shall receive its remaining share of the Closed Fund Year/Contingency Account six years after the date of its withdrawal.

19.) "RUN-IN" or "RUN-OUT" LIABILITY

The Fund covers the "run-out" liability of all members - i.e., liability for claims incurred but not reported by a former Fund member during the period it was a member. Upon approval by the Commissioners, the Fund may also cover the run-in liability of a prospective member (i.e., the liability for claims incurred but not reported by a prospective member in connection with the provision of health benefits during the period prior to joining the Fund). When the Fund covers run-in liability, the prospective member shall be assessed the expected ultimate cost of run-in claims, as certified by the Fund's actuary and approved by the Commissioners.

20) CLAIMS AND OPERATIONS AUDITS

The Fund retains a claim auditory experienced in auditing self-insured claims and operations. Annual claims and/or operational audits will be performed annually specific to the needs of the Fund and other variables impacting the health insurance market.

21.) CLAIM APPEAL PROCESS

- The Third Party Administrator (TPA) shall initially review all appeals and shall prepare a memo summarizing the relevant facts and issues involved in the appeal.
- The TPA shall provide the Executive Director (or his or her designee) and the Fund Attorney with a copy of the memo, which has been prepared concerning the appeal.
- The TPA, Executive Director (or his or her designee) and Fund Attorney shall confer concerning the merits of an appeal and they shall render a decision concerning the appeal provided that the appeal has been reviewed and recommended for approval by an independent, third party medical review consultant..
- If the decision of the TPA, Executive Director (or his or her designee) and Fund Attorney is to pay the claim, then the TPA is hereby authorized to issue the necessary check in payment of the claim.
- The Fund shall formally confirm the decision of the TPA, Executive Director (or his or her designee) and Fund Attorney to pay the claim and ratify the payment issued pursuant to that decision at the next meeting of the Fund.
- If the decision of the TPA, Executive Director (or his or her designee) and Fund Attorney is to deny the claim, the appeal shall be subject to the “adverse benefit determination” appeal process that is required pursuant to applicable law. The plan participant (hereinafter sometimes referred to as “claimant”) shall at that time be advised that the adverse benefit determination may be appealed to the Fund's Independent Review Organization (“IRO”). The claimant's identity shall be revealed only upon the written request of the claimant. A copy of such written request with respect to disclosure of the claimant's name shall be sent to the Executive Director (or his or her designee).
 - a. An appeal of an adverse benefit determination must be filed by the claimant within four (4) months from the date of receipt of the notice of the adverse benefit determination. The claimant shall submit a written request to the Executive Director (or his or her designee) to appeal an adverse benefit determination and/or final internal adverse benefit determination made by the TPA and the written request shall be accompanied by a copy of the determination letter issued by the TPA.
 1. The Executive Director (or his or her designee) will conduct a preliminary review within five (5) business days of the receipt of the request for an external review. There is no right to an external review by the IRO if (i) the claimant is or was not eligible for

coverage at the time in question or (ii) the adverse benefit determination or final internal adverse benefit determination is based upon the failure of the claimant or covered person to meet requirements for eligibility under the Plan or (iii) the claimant is not eligible due to the benefit/coverage being an excluded benefit or not included as a covered benefit. The Executive Director (or his or her designee) shall notify the claimant if (a) the request is not eligible for external review; (b) that additional information is needed to make the request complete and what is needed to complete the request; or (c) the request is complete and is being forwarded to the IRO.

2. The Executive Director (or his or her designee) shall then forward an eligible, complete request for external review to the IRO designated by the Fund who shall be required to conduct its review in an impartial, independent and unbiased manner and in accordance with applicable law.

3. The assigned IRO will provide timely written notice to the claimant of the receipt and acceptance for external review of the claimant's request and shall include a statement that the claimant may submit, in writing and within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the notice, additional information which shall be considered by the IRO when conducting the external review. Upon receipt of any information submitted by the claimant, the IRO, within one (1) business day, shall forward the information to the Executive Director (or his or her designee) who may reconsider the adverse benefit determination or final internal adverse benefit determination and, as a result of such reconsideration, modify the adverse benefit determination or final internal adverse benefit determination. The Executive Director (or his or her designee) shall provide prompt written notice of any such modification to the claimant and the IRO.

4. The Executive Director (or his or her designee), within five (5) business days of the assignment of the IRO, shall deliver to the IRO any documents and information considered in making the adverse benefit determination or the final internal adverse benefit determination. The IRO may terminate the external review and decide to reverse the adverse benefit determination or final internal adverse benefit determination if the Executive Director (or his or her designee) does not provide such information in a timely manner. In such event, the IRO shall notify the claimant and the Executive Director (or his or her designee) of the decision within one (1) business day.

5. The IRO shall complete the external review and provide written notice of its final external review decision within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of the request for the external review. In the case of a request for expedited external review of an adverse benefit determination or final internal adverse benefit determination where delay would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant or the ability to regain maximum function, the IRO shall provide notice of the final external review decision as expeditiously as possible but in no event more than 72 hours after the receipt of the request for an expedited external review. If the notice is not in writing, the IRO must provide written confirmation of the decision to the claimant and the Executive Director (or his or her designee) within 48 hours after providing that notice in the case of an expedited external review. The IRO shall deliver notice of its final external review decision to both the claimant and the Executive Director (or his or her designee) for all external reviews conducted. The notice of decision shall contain:

(i) a general description of reason for the external review with sufficient information to identify the claim, claim amount, diagnosis and treatment codes and reason for previous denial;

(ii) the date the IRO was assigned and date of the IRO's decision;

(iii) reference to the documentation/information considered;

(iv) a discussion of the rationale for the IRO's decision and any evidence-based standards relied upon in making the decision;

(v) a statement that the decision is binding on the claimant and the Fund subject to the claimant's right to seek judicial review of the same; and

(vi) that the claimant may contact the New Jersey health insurance consumer assistance office at NJ Department of Banking and Insurance, 20 West State Street, PO Box 329, Trenton, NJ 08625, phone (800) 446-7467 or (888) 393-1062 (appeals) website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/consumer.htm> e-mail: [ombudsman@dobi.state.nj.us/](mailto:ombudsman@dobi.state.nj.us)

22.) 15th OF THE MONTH ENROLLMENT CHARGE

When processing enrollments and terminations, the Fund will charge a member for a full month rate for an employee that is enrolled between the 1st and the 15th of the month, but will charge the member in the following month if an enrollment occurred between the 16th and the 31st of the month. If a member should term between the 1st and the 15th of the month, the Fund will not charge the member a rate for the enrollment, but will charge a full month rate if a member terms between the 16th and the 31st of the month.

ADOPTED: JANUARY 9, 2024

BY: _____
CHAIR

ATTEST: _____
VICE CHAIR