



**Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange  
Health Plan Benefits and Qualifications Advisory Committee  
(HPBQ AC) Special Meeting**

Remote Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2025  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Grant Ritter (Chair); Sean King; Mark Schaefer; Tu Nguyen; Matthew Brokman

**Other Participants:** Access Health CT (AHCT) Staff: James Michel; Susan Rich-Bye; Kelly Cote; Jaclyn Olgin; Marcin Olechowski

Wakely Consulting: Julie Andrews

**A. Call to Order and B. Introductions**

Chair Grant Ritter called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call for attendance was taken.

**B. Public Comment**

No public comment was submitted.

*Mark Schaefer joined at 2:02 p.m.*

**C. Vote**

Chair Ritter requested a motion to approve the February 13, 2025 Health Plan Benefits and Qualifications Advisory Committee Special Meeting Minutes. Motion was made by Tu Nguyen and was seconded by Sean King. Roll call vote was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**D. Wakely Consulting – Standard Plan Design**

Kelly Cote, Plan Management Manager, indicated that the only plan the Committee needs to still consider is the 2026 Silver 87% Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR). Ms. Cote thanked everyone involved in the standard plan development process.

Julie Andrews, Senior Actuary from Wakely Consulting, briefly described the proposed plan and efforts made to ensure compliance with the federal actuarial value range for the plan and Mental Health Parity (MHP) for both carriers. The proposed 87 percent CSR option would include reducing the medical deductible from the current \$475 to \$415. In addition, the Out-of-Pocket Maximum would increase to \$2,950; the primary care co-pay to \$35; and, the specialist care co-pay to \$50.

*Matthew Brokman joined at 2:06 p.m.*

Ms. Andrews noted that the laboratory services co-pay would increase to \$15. By adjusting those five benefits, all Issuers would be in compliance with both the required AV range for the plan and MHP.

Chair Grant Ritter requested a motion to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Silver 87% CSR plan Option 8, as presented by Wakely Consulting on behalf of Exchange Staff as the Standard Silver Plan variant for the 87% CSR Plan for Plan Year 2026. Motion was made by Tu Nguyen and was seconded by Mark Schaefer. Roll call vote was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **E. Next Steps**

Kelly Cote, Plan Management Manager, stated that all of the plans reviewed and recommended by the Committee, will be considered by the Access Health CT (AHCT) Board of Directors during its planned March 6, 2025 Meeting.

Susan Rich-Bye, Director of Legal and Government Affairs noted that Access Health CT will forward the 2025 Open Enrollment report to the committee members and added that AHCT experienced record enrollment this year, with over 151,000 consumers choosing exchange plans for plan year 2025.

#### **F. Adjournment**

Chair Grant Ritter requested a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Mark Schaefer and was seconded by Sean King. Roll call vote was ordered. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.