

MEETING MINUTES

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE LOUISIANA ASSESSORS' ASSOCIATION**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

**LOUISIANA ASSESSORS' ASSOCIATION, SUITE C
2111 QUAIL RUN DRIVE, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70808**

A meeting of the Louisiana Assessors' Insurance Committee was held Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. at the Louisiana Assessors' Association Office, located at 2111 Quail Run Drive, Baton Rouge Louisiana. The following members were present: President Lucien Gauff, Vice President Stephanie Smith, Treasurer James "Jimbo" Stevenson and Members, Denise Edwards, Rickey Huval, Richard Kendrick, Keith Maxwell, Billy McBride, Heath Pastor, Lawrence Patin, Jimbo Petitjean, Blake Phillips and Randy Sexton. Absent were members Tom Capella and Morgan Herring. The members in attendance did provide a quorum.

Following the Roll Call, Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the Public Comment Period Statement was read. Without any members of the public wishing to speak, the first item for discussion on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the December 3, 2024 meeting. A motion was made by Keith Maxwell to approve the meeting minutes. A second was provided by Blake Phillips and there was unanimous approval.

Staff Accountant, Anna Wessman, then presented the December 31, 2024, Financial reports. The Financials, including the Budget Comparison, were accepted with a motion by Heath Pastor and a second by Billy McBride. The motion passed without objection. A summary follows:

	As of December 31, 2024	Current Month this Year	Year to Date this Year
Total Assets	\$ 6,706,506.96		
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,426,703.51		
Total Capital	\$ 5,279,803.45		
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$ 6,706,506.96		
Total Revenue		\$ 1,479,372.73	\$17,618,785.16
Total Expenses		\$ 1,718,682.47	\$19,732,592.51
Net Income		(\$ 239,309.74)	(\$ 2,113,807.35)

The balance in the Operating account at USBank of \$6,671,566.79 includes reserve funds. A current Claims Report was also provided to the Committee.

Proposals of the Insurance Fund's Annual 2024 Audits by Hawthorn, Waymouth & Carroll, LLP were provided. Approval of the Financial Statement Audit was provided with a motion by Blake Phillips and a second by Richard Kendrick, with signing authority provided to the Executive Director and the Executive Officers.

USI Insurance Broker Representative Jesse Babin and David Babin and Misty Coupel were present to provide the 4th Quarter Reports. The following items were covered:

- 4th Quarter 2024 Medical, Dental & Pharmacy Expenses
- Vince Varisco, Jr. reported on the Stop Loss 2025 LASERS
- Long Term Disability limit of \$100,000
- 2025 Empower Blood Draws
- Claim Recover Case

A report provided that the 2024 plan year ended 13.3% over the premiums collected. In comparison, the 2023 plan year finished 3.8% over budget or collected premiums. Net costs were up 10.1% with enrollment flat compared to the prior plan year. Net claims were up 10.2%. Before removing stop loss claims, medical claims are up 15.6% per employee and Rx claims are up 6.2% per employee. Rx claims account for 45% of total claims, typically Rx accounts for 20-30% of total claims.

There were 20 large claims, over \$137,500 (50% of the specific stop loss \$275,000) with \$4,493,083 in paid claims. Five claims exceeded the stop loss of \$275,000 by \$301,045. Compared to 2023, this is an 82% increase in the number of large claims, with 2023 having 11 large claims at \$2,766,143.

Members were reminded about the Annual Blood Screening, by Empower, starting on January 1st and running through April 25th at LabCorp facilities only. Members, spouses and retirees are eligible to participate and registration is required. This year, we will again host one onsite location in Lake Charles at the Calcasieu Parish Assessor's Office on February 19, 2025.

Jesse Babin reminded the Committee of the Plan's Long Term Disability. Long Term disability provides, after a 90 day waiting period, 60% of your pre-disability earnings up to \$5,000 per month, or \$100,000 per year. Research provided that 90 members have annual salaries over \$100,000. The committee requested that further information be brought back, on the costs of premiums for salaries over \$100,000.

The next item on the agenda was a case, involving subrogation. The Health Plan is attempting to recover funds from a member who was involved in an accident and accepted settlement from the automobile insurance company. The member's medical claims, paid by THP, should have been recuperated from the settlement. The Subrogation group is asking the Committee for direction on what is an acceptable payment plan. Jimbo Petitjean provided a motion, to have the Executive Director and the Insurance Fund's Attorney, Sheri Morris, verify the processes of The Health Plan's Subrogation division to assure that proper procedures are in place for timely recovery of funds for future claims and also work together to come up with a reasonable payment plan, with funds recovered within the next 36 months. Richard Kendrick provided a second to the motion and all agreed and the motion passed.

Another item for discussion brought before the committee was the consideration of an excluded or noncovered expense. The Health Plan recently provided notification to the Broker and staff, of a particular Genetic Test, defined in our Plan Document as an Exclusion. After much discussion from the Committee and members of the audience, the committee requested additional details from The Health Plan, before moving forward. No immediate action was needed, since this was not an actual appeal, as a claim has not been filed. USI will follow up with The Health Plan on what genetic tests are covered, and verify that we are following the

Affordable Care Act guidelines. Additional information will be provided for further discussion, at the next meeting.

Vince Varisco, Jr. then addressed the Committee with the Stop Loss Lasers and revised and final rates for the 2025 contract.

As other business, Ms. Pat Steele announced that she would be retiring as the Insurance Benefit's Coordinator, on October 1, 2025. Lucien Gauff brought this information before the Committee, as a search for a replacement would need to begin.

President Lucien Gauff also brought before the committee, the consideration of an Insurance Subcommittee to study and research various topics, as needed, in advance of quarterly meetings. After discussion, the following members were appointed to the subcommittee, Rickey Huval, Blake Phillips, Morgan Herring, Keith Maxwell, Billy McBride and Denise Edwards.

There being no further business properly called to the attention of the committee, the meeting was adjourned, with a motion by Rickey Huval and a second by Keith Maxwell.