

# Benefit Basics for New Business Managers

## Session 150g

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Presenters:

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**Gallagher**

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# Your Presenters

Let us introduce ourselves



**Chadd Hodkinson**

Area Senior Vice President  
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.



**Mike Hagerty**

Area Vice President  
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.



**Stephanie Weese**

Assistant Superintendent for  
Administrative Services  
Livingston Educational Service  
Agency

# Discussion Overview

- 1 Brief feedback from the room on current benefit situation in your districts
- 2 Discussion around key terms and concepts
- 3 Review of common causes of cost inefficiencies
- 4 Evaluation of the impact of union and non-union workforce on the program
- 5 Overview of emerging trends in Michigan K-12 benefits

# Brief feedback from the room on current benefit situation in your districts

# Key Terms and Concepts



# Key Elements



## Coverage Level

- What is covered?
- How much a participant has to pay when accessing services?



## Flexibility

- List of facilities and providers where services can be accessed.
- Ability for participant to choose where and when to access services.



## Cost

- What comes out of the employee's check to be enrolled in the plan
- PA 152

# Coverage Level

## Deductible

Amount of expenses a person pays each benefit year from his/her own pocket before the health plan makes payments for benefits. Services subject to deductible vary by plan type.

## Coinsurance

Typically a percentage cost share amount the covered person must pay after the deductible is met for certain services each benefit year. Coupled with a coinsurance maximum which caps the amount a covered person pays after the deductible is met. Services subject to coinsurance vary by plan type.

## Copayment or Copay

A flat dollar amount paid for particular services. Services subject to copays and when copays apply (before deductible/coinsurance max is met or after deductible/coinsurance max is met) vary by plan type.

## Out of Pocket Maximum

Maximum amount the covered person must spend out of pocket during each benefit year. Amounts spent on deductibles, coinsurance and copayments all go toward the out of pocket maximum.

## Traditional Plan

May or may not have deductibles/coinsurance. Copayments typically apply from day one.

## High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)

A plan with a high deductible (at least \$1,400 single or \$2,800 for a couple or family). Member is responsible for 100% of the cost of all services **including prescription costs** until the deductible is met each benefit year. Services considered by the plan to be preventive are covered at 100% and are not subject to the deductible. The IRS allows the use of a Health Savings Account (HSA) to pay for out of pocket expenses.

# Flexibility [Network Model]

## PPO

A preferred provider organization with a lower out of pocket cost in-network and higher out of pocket cost out-of-network. In-network means the physician or hospital has contracted with the insurance company to accept a reduced fee as payment in full.

## EPO

Uses the same in-network list of providers as a PPO, but does not provide access to out-of-network services except in case of emergency.

## HMO

A health maintenance organization that requires a member to seek care through a primary care physician or PCP. The PCP then refers members to specialist as allowed by the network. HMOs do not provide access to out-of-network services except in case of emergency.

## POS

Uses the same in-network list of providers as an HMO, but provides opportunity to go out-of-network at a reduced benefit.

## Narrow Network

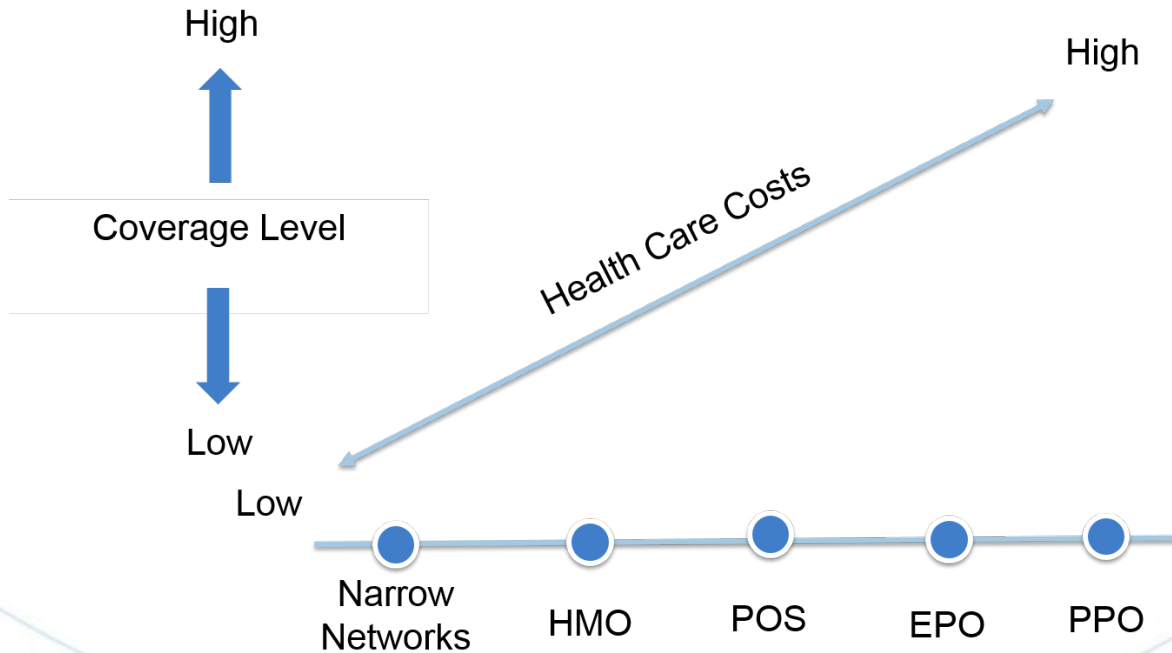
Creates steerage toward a set of hospitals/providers with which more affordable reimbursement rates have been negotiated. Access to other hospitals/providers is available at a higher cost and/or at higher out of pocket cost.



# Cost

Employee Cost  
Share/Contribution

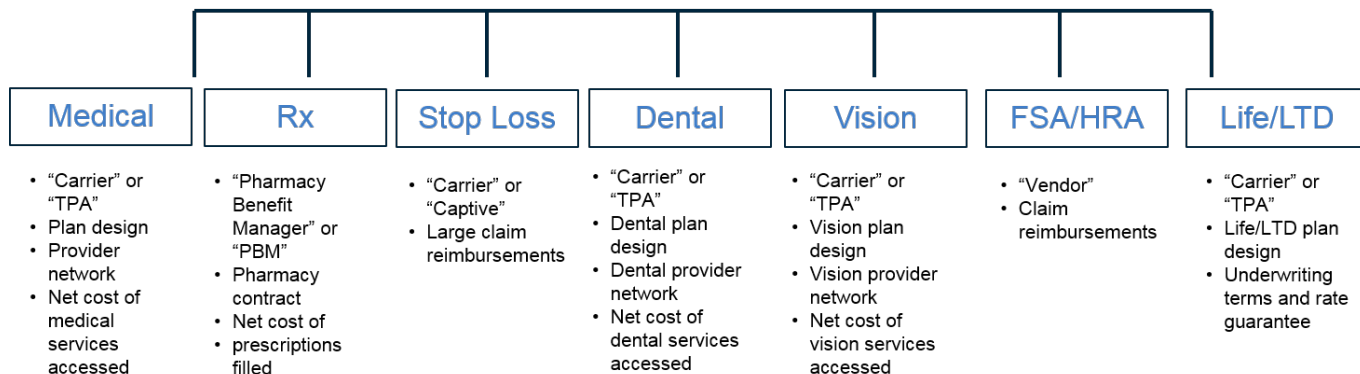
The cost to simply be enrolled in the plan. Can typically be deducted from your paycheck on a pre-tax basis.



# The Anatomy of a Public School Benefit Program

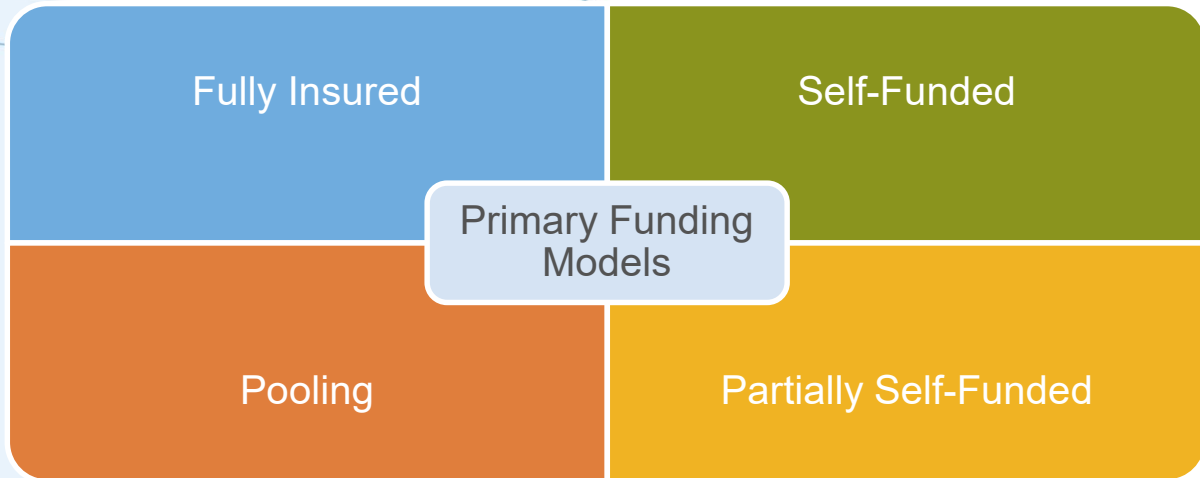
Agent/consultant - - - - - District

Strategic considerations might include things like funding models, data transparency, employee disruption, potential for cost volatility, compliance, etc.



Other program elements might include voluntary/worksites benefits, COBRA, etc.

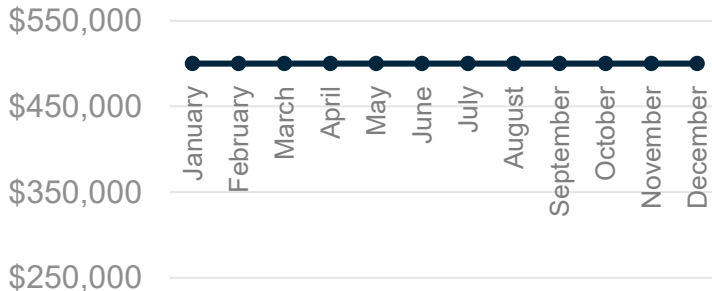
# Funding Overview



# Funding Overview

Enrollment Type	Monthly Rate	Enrollment	Total Monthly Premium
Single	\$600	100	\$60,000
Two Person	\$1,200	75	\$90,000
Family	\$1,750	200	\$350,000
<b>TOTAL MONTHLY PREMIUM</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>

## Monthly Premium Illustration



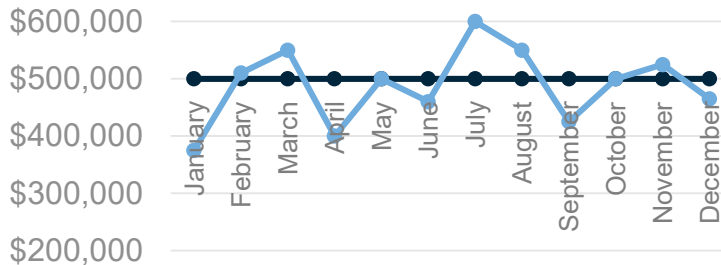
## Fully insured

- Established single, two person and family rate for each plan offered
- Rates generally guaranteed for 12 months
- District pays the same rates for 12 months whether enrollees use more care than expected or less

# Funding Overview

Cost Components	Monthly Rate	Enrollment	Total Monthly Projected Cost
Administrative Fee	\$75.00	375	\$28,125
Stoploss Insurance	\$125.00	375	\$46,875
Projected Claims	\$1,133.33	375	\$425,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>

Monthly Projected vs. Actual Cost Illustration



## Self-funded

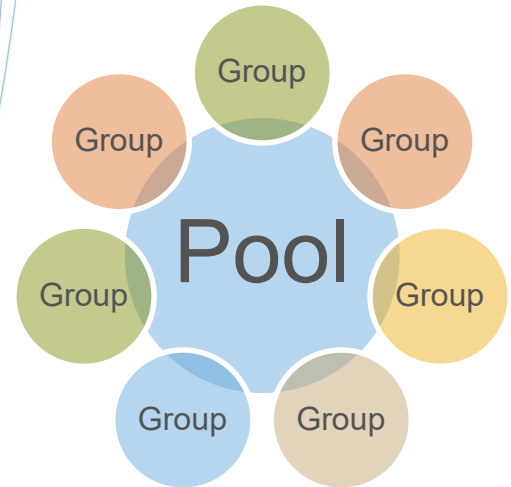
- District pays for the cost of products and services as they are used by enrollees
- Rates are established based on projected costs expected for the 12 month plan year and are not guaranteed
- District pays more if enrollees use more care than expected and pays less if enrollees use less care than expected
- Insurance retained by district to protect against catastrophic losses called stop loss insurance

# Funding Overview

## Pooling

(example arrangement based on the Western Michigan Health Insurance Pool to be discussed later)

- Sharing claim risk with other employers and taking advantage of collective buying power
- Established single, two person and family rate for each plan offered
- Rates guaranteed for 12 months
- District pays the same rates for 12 months whether enrollees use more care than expected or less
- Pool members make program decisions with a view toward providing high quality coverage at a reasonable and stable cost



# Public Act 106 (PA 106)

Among other things, requires public employers procuring coverage or benefits to solicit proposals from a minimum of three insurance carriers and one VEBA every three years or whenever a plan change is made.

## Considerations

- The partner selected for this process matters
- Use as a tool to educate
- Carefully review potential alternatives for risk exposure to district and employees, long term stability, fit with district's culture and potential for employee disruption (e.g. provider network, drug formulary change, coverage levels, service).

# Michigan Public Act 152

- Public Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act.
- Act requires to comply by either implementing hard cap (default), 20% employee contributions or (requires vote of governing body prior to the start of your plan year)
- Employer hard caps established by PA152 are noted below

1.3%  
increase  
for 2023

Election	2022 Annual Cap	2022 Monthly Cap	2023 Annual Cap	2023 Monthly Cap
Single	\$7,304.51	\$608.71	\$7,399.47	\$616.62
2-Person	\$15,276.01	\$1,273.00	\$15,474.60	\$1,289.55
Family	\$19,921.45	\$1,660.12	\$20,180.43	\$1,681.70

Note: Hard caps are released in the month of April each year by the Michigan Dept. of Treasury



# Common Causes of Cost Inefficiencies



# Common Causes of Cost Inefficiencies

- Bad advice
- Failure to select optimal carrier/vendor partners based on your district's situation
- Poor relationship and communication with carrier/vendor partners
- Lack of rapport with union and non-union leadership and membership
- Lack of transparency into program elements
- Inefficient contracts and/or arrangements
- Ineffective implementation of program additions or alternatives

# Impact of Union & Non-union Participation on the Program

# The Plan Cost

## Who and How?

Underwriters look at how much we've used our insurance plan as a group in the past to predict how we are likely to use in the future

Premium rates are set to collect enough money over the benefit year to:

- Pay for medical and prescription services received by the group
- Pay for operating expenses
- Other underwriting components include: administrative costs, trend and credibility factors



# Data Review

Typical data request submitted to carriers (all data is de-identified):

- Census file summarizing plan participants including information such as date of birth, gender, zip code and current plan elections
- Paid premiums
- 24-36 months of paid claims and enrollment by plan and as a group
- Excess claims reports with diagnosis, typically claims over \$50,000 or \$75,000
- List of providers used during the previous 12 months
- Benefit summaries



# Emerging Trends in Michigan K-12 Benefits

# Best Practices & Emerging Trends

## Michigan K-12 Benefits

1

Pooling

2

HMOs

3

Pharmacy program evaluation

4

Strategies for addressing cost pressures related to rate increases and minimal hard cap increase

5

Proactively approach annual renewal

6

Benefit committees

7

Retain experienced employee benefits counsel

8

Digital health

9

Considerations around employee experience along with organizational and employee wellbeing

- Supervisor/employee relationship
- Financial wellbeing
- Mental/emotional wellbeing

10

Ancillary program savings opportunities (dental, vision, life and disability coverage)

- Self-funding
- Cooperative purchasing

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Strategic considerations related to voluntary/worksites benefit programs

# Thank You!



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