

BHE/MTA Health and Welfare Trust

Nancy George

2021 Delegate Assembly

Virtual - Zoom

The Board of Higher Education/MTA Health and Welfare Trust Fund administers the Dental Plan and Vision Discount plan for all employees in public higher education who are affiliated with the MTA. There are twelve Trustees, six appointed each by management and by labor. I serve as the MSCA Trustee and as treasurer of the Trust. The Trust has met on a quarterly basis during the pandemic via zoom.

Currently, the fund represents approximately 9000 individuals who hold either individual or family dental plans. Funding is provided solely by negotiated state contributions of around \$15.50 per week per employee (depending on the employee's bargaining unit).

The Dental Plan is currently administered by MetLife. Coverage is up to the annual maximum benefit of \$1,200. Our ratio claims to premium is 78% (as of January, 2021), which is significantly lower than the previous year of 99%. As a result, MetLife provided the Trust with a premium reduction of \$50,000 a month going back to July 1, 2020.

The manager of the trust is Health Plans, Inc. (HPI). HPI has created a solid member database and strives to answer members' questions in a pleasant, professional, timely manner. The Trust also employs Jack Nicolas, of KD Consulting Group, as our negotiator/consultant. The monthly reports to the trust are very comprehensive and informative and the consultant is extremely helpful to the Trustees at both Trust meetings and Financial Committee meetings.

Financial activities in the past year:

We closed the Bank of America account and are using East Boston Savings Bank as our sole bank.

Our investment account averaged a 4.69% rate of return in 2021 (as of the February meeting). This was down from the previous year's rate of 15.11% return in 2020.

An audit was performed by Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.;

IRS tax forms 5500 and 990 were filed in a timely fashion.

We are in significant need to increase the state contributions as the amount has not changed for a number of years and our premiums continue to increase in cost.

Any members having issues with their dental or vision plans can contact any Trustee who can put them in touch with either Health Plans, Inc. (eligibility manager for the trust) or with our direct representative at MetLife.

Web page: <https://bhe.healthplansinc.com/>