

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting  
Webinar/Recorded  
September 26, 2025  
Minutes**

**Convene Meeting**

Welcome

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees for the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees (Plan) was called to order by Chair Bradford B. Briner at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 26, 2025.

Roll Call for Attendance

**Present:** Bradford B. Briner; Melanie Bush; Kimberly Jones; Brian Miller, M.D.; Joe Slater; Mike Stevenson (joined during closed session); Samuel Watts; Kristin Walker; Cy Vernon.

**Absent:** Russell “Rusty” Duke

Chair Briner confirmed that a quorum was present.

Conflict of Interest

Chair Briner reminded all Board members of their responsibility to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. No conflicts were reported.

**Provider Updates**

Duke/Aetna

The Board addressed the dispute between Aetna and Duke Health, which currently holds some of the highest reimbursement rates in the state.

- **Member Impact:** Members who selected Duke as their primary care provider or have had claims with Duke in 2025 may be affected. Aetna is proactively reaching out to impacted members, including those with ongoing care needs (e.g., cancer or maternity patients), to assist with care transitions.
- **Continuity of Care:** A form is available for members to request continuity of care. Members must fill out the form if Duke goes out of network.

**Member Continuity of Care Resolution**

**Board Vote:** Motion by Dr. Miller to approve the Member Continuity of Care Resolution; second by Mr. Watts; Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays; motion was approved.

Chair Briner called for a vote to move into Closed Session.

**Board Vote to move into Closed Session:** Motion by Mr. Vernon to enter closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), (a)(3), 132-1.1(a), 132-1.2(1), and 135-48.10(a) to consult with legal counsel regarding *Kadel v. Folwell and a vendor Contract Matters; Vendor Prelitigation Dispute*; second by Dr. Miller; Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays; motion was approved.

### **Closed Session**

The Board consulted with Ben Garner, Department General Counsel, Aaron Vodicka, Assistant General Counsel, and Joel Heimbach, Assistant General Counsel regarding a vendor pre-litigation dispute and the case of *Kadel v. Folwell*.

Chair Briner called for a vote to return to Open Session.

**Board Vote to move into Open Session:** Motion by Ms. Bush to return to open session; second by Dr. Miller; Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays; motion was approved.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Briner called for a vote to adjourn the meeting.

**Board Vote to adjourn the meeting:** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Watts; second by Mr. Slater. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays; motion was approved.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Joel Heimbach, Secretary

Approved by:  \_\_\_\_\_

Bradford B. Briner  
Chairman of Board of Trustees  
North Carolina State Health Plan