Special ReportArkansas Legislative Audit

Arkansas State and Public School Employees Health Benefits

Employee Benefits Division -Department of Finance and Administration For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014



INTRODUCTION

Ark. Code Ann. § 21-5-416 mandates the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee conduct a review of the entity administering the claims of the State Employee Health and Life Insurance Program. Health and pharmacy claim payments for Arkansas state and public school employees are administered by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) Employee Benefits Division (EBD). The Arkansas General Assembly enacted changes affecting the benefits provided by EBD. Changes include requiring all health plans to have a deductible in calendar year 2015, requiring all public school employee subscribers to work a minimum of 30 hours per week to be eligible for benefits, requiring subscribers with high-deductible plans to establish a health savings account, and eliminating coverage for spouses when coverage is available to them elsewhere. This report is designed to provide information to assist in the legislative decision-making process regarding these plans.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this report were to:

- Analyze the state and public school employee health and benefit plans' fund balances at June 30, 2014.
- Review high-dollar claims and their corresponding case management services.
- Summarize primary service provider contracts.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The review was conducted for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Arkansas Legislative Audit (ALA) staff analyzed the state and public school employee health and benefit plans' fund balances by reviewing financial data from the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS). Additional information for this review was obtained from relevant documents, such as contracts, claims, plan descriptions, board minutes, actuarial reports, accounting systems, and claim review documentation, as well as discussions with EBD employees and third party-vendors.

The methodology used in preparing this report was developed uniquely to address the stated objectives; therefore, this report is more limited in scope than an audit or attestation engagement performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

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FUND BALANCES

EBD administers the health and benefit plans for both state and public school employees. Benefits are provided through self-funding, a method by which the State takes in contributions from both the employee and the employing agencies. The two funds are as follows:

- Arkansas State Employee (ASE) Health and Benefit Plan General Fund.
- Public School Employee (PSE) Health and Benefit Plan Proprietary Fund.

The purposes of these funds are to pay health and pharmacy claims and to serve as reservoirs to prevent dramatic rate increases for subscribers (i.e., participating employees and retirees).

Both ASE and PSE health plans are administered on a calendar-year basis (January to December). During plan years 2013 and 2014, Health Advantage managed the Gold and Bronze Plans, while QualChoice managed the Silver Plan. Pharmacy claims were managed by Catamaran. Actuarial services were provided by Cheiron, and prescription drug plan management support was provided via a memorandum of understanding with the Evidence-Based Prescription Program (EBRx) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

As detailed in **Exhibit I**, the number of subscribers increased 1,250 from fiscal year 2013 to 2014 for both plans—401 subscribers for the ASE plan and 849 for the PSE plan. See **Schedule 1 on page 10** for detailed subscriber enrollment by plan type.

Exhibit I

Arkansas State Employee (ASE) and Public School Employee (PSE) Health and Benefit Plan Participants, Including Retirees At June 30, 2013 and 2014

	AS	E	PS	SE
	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Members</u>
Enrollment at June 30, 2013	38,283	64,989	57,655	83,179
Increased enrollment	401	1,029	849	2,416
Enrollment at June 30, 2014	38,684	66,018	58,504	85,595

Note: Subscribers refers to employees and retirees who are enrolled in the health and benefit plans. *Members* refers to subscribers and their qualifying dependents who are enrolled in the health and benefit plans.

Source: Department of Finance and Administration - Employee Benefits Division (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)

Arkansas State Employee (ASE) Fund Balance Analysis

ASE Fund Revenue

As illustrated in **Exhibit II on page 3**, the primary sources of revenue for the ASE Fund are employer and subscriber contributions. Employer contributions are based on Ark. Code Ann. § 21-5-414, which requires each state agency to make a monthly contribution for each budgeted state employee position. The 34,831 budgeted positions for 2014 increased 163 from fiscal year 2013. The employer contribution amount for fiscal year 2014 was \$4,920 (\$410 per month) per budgeted position. For fiscal year 2014, employer premium contributions totaled \$171.8 million. Employer contributions increased \$9.2 million (5.7%) over the previous year, primarily due to the \$240 yearly increase in required contributions per budgeted position (\$20 per month).

Subscriber contributions are based on plan type (Gold, Silver, or Bronze) and coverage selected (employee only, employee and spouse, employee and family, employee and child, retired, or COBRA). **Schedule 2 on page 11** provides subscriber contribution amounts for monthly premiums for plan year 2014. For the year, subscriber premium contributions totaled \$89.1 million. Subscriber contributions increased \$2.7 million (3.2%) from the previous year due to increases in rates (1% for active employees) and enrollment (particularly Medicare retirees).

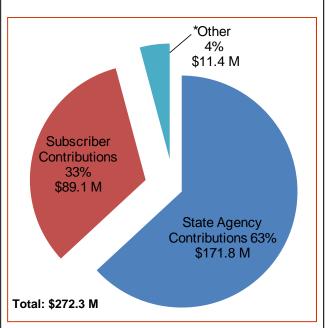
Additionally, other revenues totaling \$11.4 million (FICA savings, investment income, and pharmacy rebates) increased an aggregate \$1.0 million over last year.

ASE Fund Expenditures

Health and pharmacy claims are the primary source of expenditures for the ASE Fund. For fiscal year 2014, health and pharmacy claims paid from the Fund totaled \$182.1 million and \$72.4 million, respectively. As shown in **Exhibits III** and IV on pages 4 and 5, from fiscal year 2013 to 2014, health claims decreased \$2.4 million, and pharmacy claims decreased \$6.4 million. Factors identified by ALA staff as contributing to this decrease include the following:

 Shifting \$5.9 million in health care and pharmacy costs from the plan to the subscribers through increases in copay, deductible, and coinsurance amounts.

Exhibit II Arkansas State Employee (ASE) Sources of Fund Revenue For Fiscal Year 2014



*Other includes performance guarantees, penalties, investment income, pharmacy rebates, FICA savings, and Medicare Part D subsidies.

Source: Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS) (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)

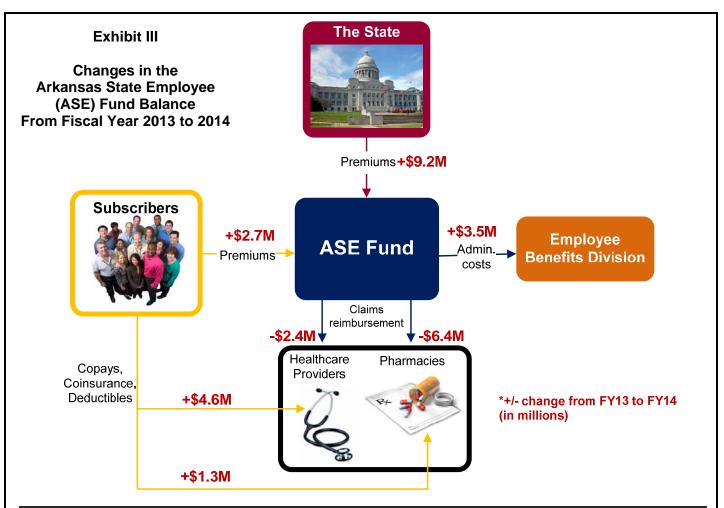
 Reducing the maximum amount paid for pharmacy claims by eliminating a 10% surcharge that had been included in the plan's formula for calculating pharmacy reimbursements.

While claim expenditures decreased, administrative costs increased \$3.5 million (17.3%). The increase was primarily due to (1) an increase in professional fees of \$1.1 million as service provider contracts were changed, (2) an increase in plan enrollment, as well as (3) a new \$1.8 million fee required by the federal Affordable Care Act.

The health and pharmacy claim costs to the Fund per subscriber totaled \$548.18 per month (\$321.21 per member per month), a \$24.86 reduction from the prior year's \$573.05 per subscriber per month claim cost. However, the out-of-pocket costs to subscribers increased \$15.48 from \$288.50 per subscriber per month (\$169.94 per member) in fiscal year 2013 to \$303.98 per subscriber per month (\$178.12 per member).

ASE Fund Balance

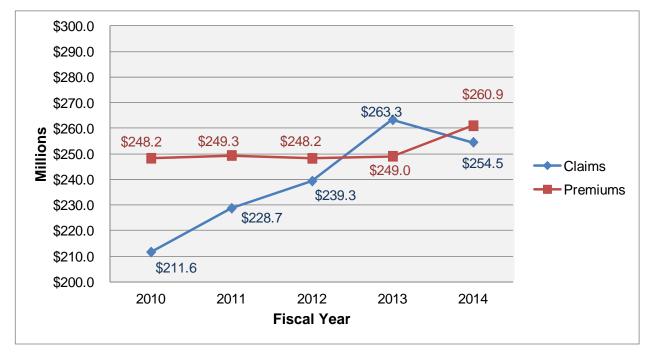
At fiscal year end, the ASE Fund balance declined \$5.9 million to \$54.0 million, as shown in **Exhibit IV on page 5**. The fund balance previously declined \$25.3 million in fiscal year 2013; thus, the fund improved performance by \$19.4 million during the current year. The improvement was primarily the



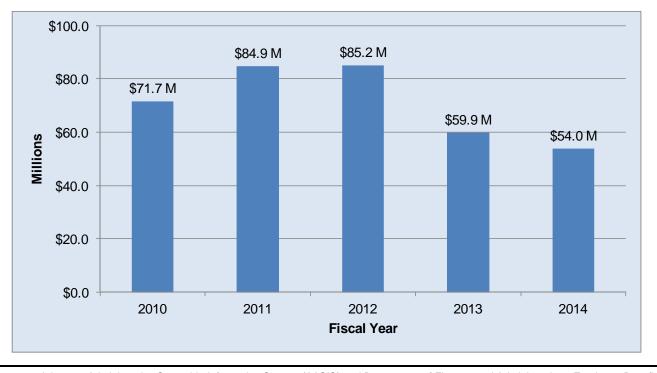
	Total Am	oun	t Paid		Increase / crease) from		Average Am er Subscribe		
	FY2013		FY2014	FY20	013 to FY2014	F	Y2013	F	Y2014
Paid by the State									
Premiums	\$ 162,610,804	\$	171,816,472	\$	9,205,668	\$	353.97	\$	370.13
Paid by Subscribers									
Copays, coinsurance, and deductibles									
Healthcare providers	\$ 25,414,476	\$	30,016,314	\$	4,601,838	\$	55.32	\$	64.66
Pharmacy	20,717,284		21,968,926		1,251,642		45.10		47.33
Premiums	86,401,855		89,125,049		2,723,194		188.08		191.99
Total paid by subscribers	\$ 132,533,615	\$	141,110,289	\$	8,576,674	\$	288.50	\$	303.98
Paid from the ASE Fund									
Administrative costs	\$ 20,346,734	\$	23,862,057	\$	3,515,323	\$	44.30	\$	51.40
Claims reimbursements									
Healthcare providers	184,471,619		182,113,251		(2,358,368)		401.55		392.31
Pharmacy	78,783,739		72,358,353		(6,425,386)		171.49		155.87
Total paid from the ASE Fund	\$ 283,602,092	\$	278,333,661	\$	(5,268,431)	\$	617.34	\$	599.58

Exhibit IV

Arkansas State Employee (ASE) Health and Pharmacy
Employer and Employee Premiums and Claims by Year
For Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2010 through 2014



ASE Health and Benefit Plan General Fund Balance At June 30, 2010 through 2014



result of a decrease in claims paid (\$8.8 million) and an increase in employer contributions (\$9.2 million). However, the fund continued to utilize reserves to pay expenditures in fiscal year 2014.

Public School Employee (PSE) Fund Balance Analysis

PSE Fund Revenue

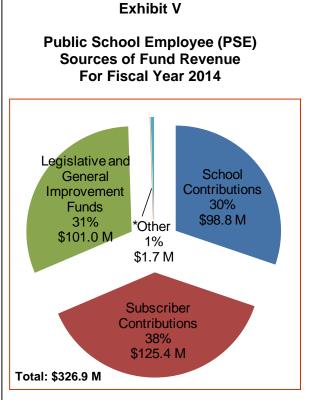
As illustrated in **Exhibit V**, the primary sources of revenue for the PSE Fund are school contributions, state appropriations, and subscriber contributions. School contributions are based on Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-1117, which requires each school district to make a monthly contribution of not less than \$150 for each active subscriber. The average school contribution amount for fiscal

year 2014 was \$1,688 (\$141 per month) for each active and retired subscriber. For fiscal year 2014, school premium contributions totaled \$98.8 million. School contributions increased \$2.9 million (3.0%) over the previous year, primarily due to the required increase of \$19 per month in school-required contributions over fiscal year 2013.

State premium contributions of \$101.0 million were funded in fiscal year 2014 through the following appropriations:

- \$35 million from the Arkansas Department of Education, in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-1117.
- \$15 million from Act 1309 of 2013.
- \$8 million from General Improvement funds, in accordance with Act 1518 of 2013.
- \$43 million through Act 5 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2013.

Subscriber contributions are based on plan type (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and coverage selected (employee only, employee and spouse, employee and family, employee and child, retired, or COBRA). **Schedule 2 on page 11** provides subscriber contribution amounts for monthly premiums for plan year



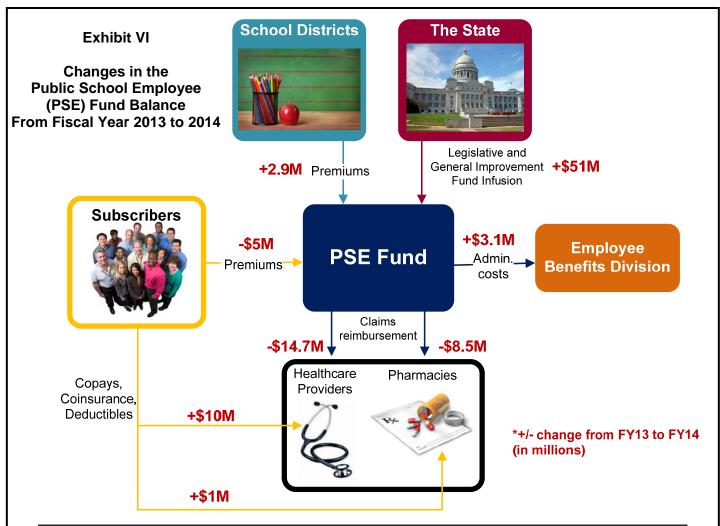
*Other includes performance guarantees, penalties, investment income, and pharmacy rebates.

Source: Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS) (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)

2014. For the year, subscriber premium contributions totaled \$125.4 million. While premium rates rose 10% from the previous year, subscriber contributions decreased \$5.0 million (-3.8%), primarily due to the migration of subscribers from the Gold Plan to the Bronze Plan.

PSE Fund Expenditures

Health and pharmacy claims are the primary source of expenditures for the PSE Fund. For fiscal year 2014, health and pharmacy claims paid from the Fund totaled \$202.7 million and \$54.3 million, respectively. As shown in **Exhibits VI and VII on pages 7 and 8**, from fiscal year 2013 to 2014, health claims decreased \$14.7 million, and pharmacy claims decreased \$8.5 million. Factors identified by ALA staff as contributing to these decreases include the following:

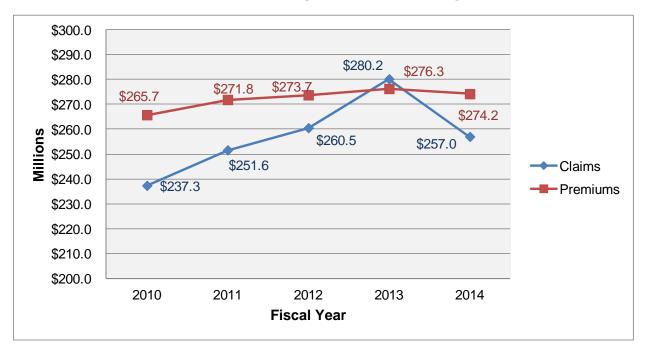


	Total Amount Paid		Increase / (Decrease) from		Average Amount Paid Per Subscriber Per Month*				
		FY2013	FY2014	FY2	013 to FY2014	FY2013		FY2014	
Paid by the State									
Legislative and General Improvement Fund Infusion	\$	50,000,000	\$ 101,000,000	\$	51,000,000	\$	72.27	\$	143.86
Paid by School Districts									
Premiums	\$	95,831,417	\$ 98,750,130	\$	2,918,713	\$	138.51	\$	140.66
Paid by Subscribers									
Copays, coinsurance, and deductibles									
Healthcare providers	\$	40,132,202	\$ 50,117,811	\$	9,985,609	\$	58.01	\$	71.39
Pharmacy		19,531,602	20,527,552		995,950		28.23		29.24
Premiums		130,427,389	125,406,749		(5,020,640)		188.52		178.63
Total paid by subscribers	\$	190,091,193	\$ 196,052,112	\$	5,960,919	\$	274.76	\$	279.26
Paid from the PSE Fund									
Administrative costs	\$	27,527,396	\$ 30,675,837	\$	3,148,441	\$	39.79	\$	43.69
Claims reimbursements									
Healthcare providers		217,426,959	202,703,478		(14,723,481)		314.26		288.73
Pharmacy		62,740,462	54,277,129		(8,463,333)		90.68		77.31
Total paid from the PSE Fund	\$	307,694,817	\$ 287,656,444	\$	(20,038,373)	\$	444.73	\$	409.73

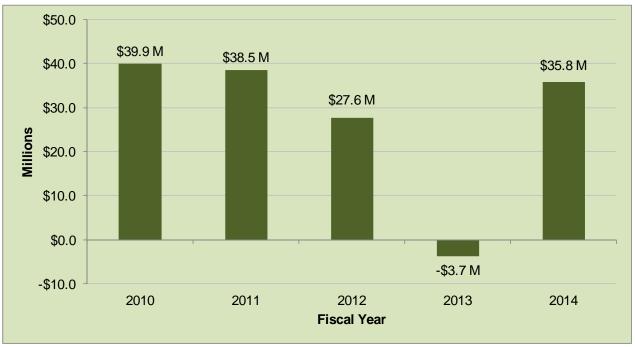
^{*}Subscriber includes active and retired employees.

Exhibit VII

Public School Employee (PSE) Health and Pharmacy Employer and Employee Premiums and Claims by Year For Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2010 through 2014



PSE Health and Benefit Plan General Fund Balance At June 30, 2010 through 2014



- Shifting \$11.0 million of health care and pharmacy costs from the Fund to the subscribers through increases in copay, deductible, and coinsurance amounts.
- Reducing the maximum amount paid for pharmacy claims by eliminating a 10% surcharge that had been included in the plan's formula for calculating pharmacy reimbursements.

While claim expenditures decreased, administrative costs increased \$3.1 million (11.4%). The increase was primarily due to (1) an increase in professional fees of \$1.2 million as service provider contracts were changed, (2) an increase in plan enrollment, as well as (3) a new \$2.4 million fee required by the federal Affordable Care Act.

The health and pharmacy claim costs to the plan per subscriber totaled \$366.04 per month (\$250.19 per member per month), a \$38.91 reduction from the prior year's \$404.95 per subscriber per month claim cost. However, out-of-pocket costs to the employees increased \$4.50 from \$274.75 per subscriber per month (\$190.44 per member) in fiscal year 2013 to \$279.26 per subscriber per month (\$190.87 per member).

PSE Fund Balance

At fiscal year end, the PSE fund balance had increased by \$39.5 million to \$35.8 million, as shown in **Exhibit VII on page 8**. The majority of this increase was due to a \$51 million one-time infusion of General Improvement funds and appropriations enacted in the First Extraordinary Session of 2013.

LARGE CLAIMANTS CASE MANAGEMENT

Schedule 3 on page 12 provides a listing of all ASE and PSE health claims exceeding \$200,000 during fiscal year 2014. ASE had 16 members with cumulative health claims exceeding \$200,000 and totaling \$4.7 million in expenditures. This is an increase over fiscal year 2013 in which 12 members had large claims totaling \$3.7 million. PSE had 12 members with cumulative health claims exceeding \$200,000 and totaling \$4.4 million in expenditures. This is a decline from fiscal year 2013, in which 11 members had \$10.0 million in large claims.

ALA staff conducted a test of claims exceeding \$200,000 for accuracy and timeliness in eligibility, covered procedures, payment amounts, and case management services. No discrepancies were noted.

SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS

EBD has entered into various contracts with outside vendors to assist in providing insurance benefits to plan participants. A listing of the primary contracts that EBD has with service providers, a description of the services provided, and the total cost per contract for fiscal year 2014 is available at **Schedule 4 on page 13.**

CONCLUSION

During the review period, significant changes to the ASE and PSE plans were made by the Legislature and by EBD in an effort to sustain the plans. The most significant change was the cost-savings to the State driven by shifting costs to members. While both Funds performed better in fiscal year 2014 than 2013, the ASE Fund continued to utilize reserves to pay for current expenditures, and the PSE Fund was only sustained by a \$51 million infusion of one-time funding from the General Assembly and the Office of the Governor.

Arkansas State and Public School Employee Health and Benefit Plan Subscribers At June 30, 2014

Arkansas State Employees (ASE)									
Coverage Available to Subscriber	Gold Plan	Silver Plan	Bronze Plan	Medicare Plan	2014 Total	Increase (Decrease) From 2013			
			Active a	nd Cobra					
Employee Only	13,289	879	1,246		15,414	(220)			
Employee and Child(ren)	4,661	257	311		5,229	(104)			
Employee and Spouse	2,927	185	357		3,469	54			
Employee and Family	3,143	251	439		3,833	170			
2014 Total	24,020	1,572	2,353		27,945				
Increase (Decrease)	(973)	372	501			(100)			
			Ret	irees					
Employee Only	1,589	12	27	5,641	7,269	385			
Employee and Child(ren)	92	2	4	61	159	14			
Employee and Spouse	715	7	17	2,464	3,203	98			
Employee and Family	44	1	9	54	108	4			
2014 Total	2,440	22	57	8,220	10,739				
Increase (Decrease)	28	3	24	446		501			
	Pub	lic School En	nployees (PS	E)					
Coverage Available to Subscriber	Gold Plan	Silver Plan	Bronze Plan	Medicare Plan	2014 Total	Increase (Decrease) From 2013			
			Active a	nd Cobra					
Employee Only	16,278	3,630	14,489		34,397	(886)			
Employee and Child(ren)	1,477	871	3,857		6,205	(489)			
Employee and Spouse	251	196	1,440		1,887	182			
Employee and Family	315	317	3,367		3,999	691			
2014 Total	18,321	5,014	23,153		46,488				
Increase (Decrease)	(9,774)	671	8,601			(502)			
	Retirees								
Employee Only	1,465	91	928	8,180	10,664	1,192			
Employee and Child(ren)	14	1	26	15	56	8			
Employee and Spouse	239	2	183	829	1,253	161			
Employee and Family	13		27	3	43	(10)			
2014 Total	1,731	94	1,164	9,027	12,016				
2014 10tai	1,701	<u> </u>	.,	0,02.	,				

Arkansas State and Public School Employee Maximum Monthly Premiums For Plan Year 2014

Arkansas State Employees (ASE)

Coverage Available to Subscriber	Gold Plan	Silver Plan	Bronze Plan	Regular Medicare Plan	Act 331 Medicare Plan		
to Subscriber	Flair	Active					
Employee Only	\$96.68	\$62.72	\$0.00	N/A	N/A		
Employee and Child(ren)	\$195.48	\$142.78	\$28.10	N/A	N/A		
Employee and Spouse	\$371.24	\$285.20	\$77.96	N/A	N/A		
Employee and Family	\$423.6	\$327.68	\$93.08	N/A	N/A		
	\$423.0 \$327.00 \$93.00 N/A N						
Retiree Only	\$237.98	\$204.00	\$147.86	\$148.10	\$353.44		
Retiree and Child(ren)	\$444.02	\$379.16	\$204.06	\$347.70	\$679.57		
Retiree and Spouse	\$581.36	\$495.32	\$303.78	N/A	N/A		
Retiree and Family	\$925.42	\$678.34	\$334.02	N/A	N/A		
Retiree and Medicare Spouse	\$405.36	N/A	N/A	\$340.86	\$706.87		
Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$480.82	\$824.43		
Retiree, Medicare Spouse, and Child(ren)	\$612.54	N/A	N/A	\$540.48	\$995.87		
Retiree, Non-Medicare Spouse, and Child(ren)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$680.46	\$1,234.57		
Note: Cobra premiums range from \$197.13 for the "Bronze/E							
	School Em						
Coverage Available to Subscriber	Gold Plan	Silver Plan	Bronze Plan	Regular Medicare Plan	Act 331 Medicare Plan		
			Acti	ve			
Employee Only	\$249.38	\$173.32	\$11.00	N/A	N/A		
Employee and Child(ren)	\$639.52	\$444.52	\$119.16	N/A	N/A		
Employee and Spouse	\$1,129.92	\$785.24	\$266.72	N/A	N/A		
Employee and Family	\$1,132.96	\$787.36	\$269.50	N/A	N/A		
			Retir	ees			
Retiree Only	\$566.72	\$426.54	\$267.66	\$81.68	\$153.46		
Retiree and Child(ren)	\$1,048.24	\$779.76	\$468.20	\$665.66	\$676.52		
Retiree and Spouse	\$1,360.06	\$1,107.40	\$600.98	N/A	N/A		
Retiree and Family	\$1,841.60	\$1,363.04	\$801.52	N/A	N/A		
Retiree and Medicare Spouse	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$271.04	\$306.92		
Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$708.98	\$708.98		
Retiree, Medicare Spouse, and Child(ren)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$788.44	\$788.44		
Retiree, Non-Medicare Spouse, and Child(ren)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,310.62	\$1,428.33		
Note: Cobra premiums range from \$273.01 for the "Bronze/Employee Only" plan type to \$1,878.43 for the "Gold/Employee and Family" plan type.							
Note: Cobra premiums range from \$273.01 for the "Bronze/E	mployee Only" p	plan type to \$1,8	878.43 for the "0	Gold/Employee and F	amily" plan type.		

Arkansas State Employee (ASE) and Public School Employee (PSE) Individual Patient Health Claims Exceeding \$200,000 in Total Fiscal Year 2014

А	SE Health Claims Exceeding	\$200,000	PSE Health Claims Exceeding \$200,000				
Patient	Diagnosis	Amount	Patient	Diagnosis	Amount		
1	Accident	\$462,717	1	Newborn	\$882,370		
2	Heart disease	410,192	2	Heart disease	672,651		
3	Heart disease	370,462	3	Newborn	501,762		
4	Heart and kidney disease	369,970	4	Burn victim	397,919		
5	Newborn	351,961	5	Cancer	307,170		
6	Cancer	342,969	6	Liver disease	282,975		
7	Cancer	296,381	7	Newborn	248,649		
8	Heart disease	268,299	8	Respiratory system disease	248,536		
9	Heart disease	237,197	9	Cancer	239,869		
10	Accident	235,384	10	Heart disease	219,158		
11	Newborn	233,718	11	Heart disease	215,000		
12	Aneurysm	228,380	12	Digestive system disease	213,222		
13	Cancer	225,132					
14	Heart disease	224,737					
15	Cancer	213,308					
16	Digestive system disease	209,441					
ASE To	tal	\$4,680,248	PSE To	tal	\$4,429,281		

Arkansas State Employee (ASE) and Public School Employee (PSE) Fund Professional Service Contracts and Amounts Paid Per Fund Fiscal Year 2014

Vendor	Services Provided	ASE Amount	PSE Amount
American Health Holding	Case management	\$2,398,931	\$3,475,825
Arkansas Office of Health Information Technology	Access to electronic medical records	91,334	59,802
Catamaran	Prescription drug claims administration and ASE retiree Medicare Part D administration	2,688,596	3,450,731
ComPsych	Wellness program and behavioral health management	674,678	962,581
DataPath Administrative Services	Health Savings Account administration	38,868	517,678
EBRx	Prior authorization and on-site pharmacist	323,775	489,091
Health Advantage	Gold and Bronze Plan member benefits and claim coordination, comprehensive primary care initiative payments, customer service contract staff, recovery fees, and transplant fees	12,402,303	17,179,749
Mainstream	Software programming and maintenance	2,090,069	290,991
Minnesota Life	ASE active employee \$10,000 life insurance	656,280	0
QualChoice	Silver Plan member benefits and claim coordination, comprehensive primary care initiative payments, and customer service contract staff	459,981	1,402,692
United States Treasury	Federal Affordable Care Act mandated fees	1,751,854	2,398,703
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences	Strategic planning and analytical services	50,879	76,857
Wageworks	Flexible spending account management	135,642	0
Miscellaneous		98,868	371,137
Totals		\$23,862,057	\$30,675,837

