

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2023
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Briefing Book with the complete presentations and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at:

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/public-employees-benefits-board-pebb-program/meetings-and-materials#meeting-materials>

Members Present in Olympia

Lou McDermott, Chair Pro-Tem
Michaela Doelman

Members Present via Zoom

Kurt Spiegel
Elyette Weinstein
Monica McLemore
John Comerford
Harry Bossi
Tom MacRobert

Members Absent

None

SEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, Chair Pro-Tem, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Sufficient members were present to allow a quorum. Board members and the public were able to attend either in person or virtually via Zoom.

Meeting Overview

David Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of the agenda.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kurt Spiegel moved, and Michaela Doelman seconded a motion to approve the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

April Meeting Follow Up

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided some follow up items in response to questions asked at the April Board meeting. Items brought back included information about SmartHealth registrant data and participation trends, as well as clarification regarding identification and certification requirements in order to be paid through the Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP).

Legislative Update

Cade Walker, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided a debrief on relevant bills and their outcomes during legislative session. The passage of bills tracked throughout session and the implementation of laws pertaining to the SEBB Program were discussed.

2023-25 Budget Update

Tanya Deuel, Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD), presented a final update on the 2023-25 biennial budget. The presentation included final funding rates, the Medicare explicit subsidy, final conference budget funding, and new proviso language.

UMP Hearing Instruments Benefit

Janice McAlpin, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, and **Sara Whitley**, ERB Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD), gave an update on over-the-counter hearing instruments. The presentation included an overview of the evolution of the UMP hearing instruments benefit, details regarding House Bill 1222, hearing instruments utilization, insights gleaned from utilization data, assumed outcomes, and proposed resolution PEBB 2023-03 to align the UMP hearing instruments benefit with the new requirements from House Bill 1222. Stakeholders will be consulted before the next Board meeting and action on these resolutions is planned for the June 1, 2023 Board meeting.

The following members of the public provided comments regarding the UMP hearing instruments benefit:

- **Fred Yancey**, with concerns regarding the proposed resolution
- **Amy Fortier**, with questions regarding the provided data in the presentation

2023 Kaiser Permanente of Washington First Fill Insights

Christine Davis, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of the Kaiser Permanente first fill prescription program. The presentation included a recap of the Board vote in 2022 regarding the Kaiser Permanente premiums and changes, the Health Care Authority's standard communications methods after premium votes conclude, how the first fill program was communicated in open enrollment materials, lessons learned from the Health Care

Authority regarding plan benefit change implementation, and a statement from Kaiser Permanente of Washington.

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a Medicare update that included the Medicare pharmacy appeal processes, information about Independent Review Organizations (IRO), a UnitedHealthcare (UHC) CAHPS survey update, listening sessions update, public forums update, retiree communications update, and retiree engagement webpage location.

Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Linnea Mulder**, regarding the Medicare update presentation
- **Amy Fortier**, regarding resolution visibility
- **Nathan and Katie Johnson**, regarding the Kaiser Permanente pharmacy first fill program
- **Matt Groshong**, regarding the input process on the legislative report related to the retiree listening sessions
- **Aruna Bhuta**, regarding Senate Bill 5490

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the May 11, 2023 PEB Board meeting at:

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/public-employees-benefits-board-pebb-program/meetings-and-materials#meeting-materials>

Next Meeting

June 8, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Preview of June 8, 2023 PEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the June 8, 2023 PEB Board Meeting.

Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(L), the Board met in in Executive Session to consider proprietary or confidential nonpublished information related to the development, acquisition, or implementation of state purchased health care services as provided in RCW 41.05.026. The Executive Session began at 11:38 a.m. and concluded at 12:19 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.