

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2023
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 1:15 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
Kurt Spiegel
Elyette Weinstein
John Comerford
Harry Bossi
Tom MacRobert

Members Present via Zoom

Michaela Doelman
Monica McLemore

Members Absent

None

SEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, Chair Pro-Tem, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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

Elyette Weinstein moved, and Harry Bossi seconded a motion to approve the May 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Two amendments were named during the meeting – one change to the public comment section and one change to the present Board members list. Minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote. Monica McLemore was absent for voting.

May Meeting Follow Up

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided a verbal update regarding the Benefits 24/7 application and delaying its launch that was scheduled for June 12, 2023. At this time there is no new launch date scheduled.

UMP Hearing Instruments Benefit

Janice McAlpin, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, brought a resolution to the PEB Board for voting regarding aligning the UMP hearing instruments benefit with legislation passed in the 2023 session.

- *PEBB 2023-03 UMP Hearing Instruments Benefit.* Harry Bossi moved, and Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Monica McLemore was absent for voting.

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

- **Fred Yancey**, with concerns
- **Amy Fortier**, with concerns

UMP CDHP IRS Minimum Deductible

Janice McAlpin, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, presented information to the Board regarding the UMP Consumer Health Directed Plan (CDHP) and proposed resolution PEBB 2023-04 regarding setting the annual deductible for the plan to align with the minimum annual deductible level established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

No action was taken, and voting is scheduled to occur on this resolution at the June 29, 2023 PEB Board meeting.

Federal Public Health Emergency Unwind

Shawna Lang, Portfolio Management and Monitoring Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave an update on the federal public health emergency unwind and COVID-19 benefit coverage changes. The presentation included public health emergency coverage and information as well as actions taken after the federal public health emergency ended for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid), and the PEBB Program plans, including Premera, Kaiser Permanente, and the Uniform Medical Plan. Topics also included UMP's COVID-19 coverage history, and proposed resolution PEBB 2023-05 regarding UMP over-the-counter COVID-19 test coverage.

Coordination of Benefits State Analysis

Molly Christie, Fiscal Analyst in the Financial Services Division, gave an overview of some information on a multi-state analysis regarding retiree health plan offerings. Details included plan options for retiree health coverage, benefit provisions and premium contribution strategies, summaries of plan options and premium contributions by state, types of coordination plans, and coordination of benefits comparisons including benefits and premiums.

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a Medicare update that included a recap on the PEBB Program retiree listening sessions, public forum update, retiree communications update, and where to find retiree communications and resources on the Health Care Authority's website.

Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Matt Groshong**
- **Amy Fortier**
- **Linnea Mulder**
- **Fred Yancey**
- **Cathy [no last name provided]**

Topics brought forth during public comments included requests for changes to retiree assistance, formulary suggestions, acknowledgements of staff presentations and outreach efforts, and UnitedHealthcare considerations.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the June 8, 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 29, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Preview of June 29, 2023 PEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the June 29, 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 11:46 a.m. and concluded at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.