

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2023
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:05 a.m. – 2:44 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
Elyette Weinstein
John Comerford
Harry Bossi
Tom MacRobert

Members Present via Zoom

Monica McLemore
Kurt Spiegel

Members Absent

Michaela Doelman

SEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, Chair Pro-Tem, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Kurt Spiegel seconded a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote. Michaela Doelman was absent for voting.

UMP CDHP IRS Minimum Deductible

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

- *PEBB 2023-04 UMP Consumer-Directed Health Plan (CDHP) IRS Minimum Deductible.* Tom MacRobert moved, and John Comerford seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Michaela Doelman was absent for voting.

UMP COVID-19 Over-The-Counter Test Coverage

Janice McAlpin, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, brought a resolution to the Board for a vote regarding UMP over-the-counter COVID-19 test coverage after the end of the federal public health emergency.

- *PEBB 2023-05 UMP COVID-19 Over-The-Counter Test Coverage.* Monica McLemore moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Michaela Doelman was absent for voting.

Pharmacy Formulary Development: From FDA Approval to Plan Coverage

Luke Dearden, Clinical Pharmacist in the Clinical Quality and Care Transformation (CQCT) Division, gave a presentation on information regarding the PEBB Program's pharmacy formulary development and how a drug goes from FDA approval to plan coverage. Details of the presentation included information on FDA approval, accelerated FDA approval, drug development, baseline requirements for coverage, the Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, clinical and cost evaluation, implementation, information on preferred drugs, and Medicare Part D formulary guidelines.

Open Enrollment Member Communications Survey

Michelle George, Communications Manager in the Communications (COM) Division, provided information regarding the post-open enrollment member communications survey completed by the Health Care Authority (HCA) this past winter. Information in the presentation included the reason for the survey, how subscribers receive newsletters, survey design, survey promotion, survey respondent data, what HCA learned, and next steps.

PEBB Program Benefit Cycles

John Partin, Benefits Strategy & Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave an overview of the PEBB Program's benefit cycles. Details of the presentation included development of benefit designs, the PEBB Program contracts renewal cycle, and three examples of these cycles using home COVID-19 tests and vision hardware benefits changes, and the wellness platform procurement from the PEBB Program.

2024 Medicare Premiums

Molly Christie, Fiscal Analyst in the Financial Services Division (FSD), presented the 2024 Medicare premiums, related financial information, and introduced related premiums resolutions. Details of the presentation included PEBB Medicare subsidies, cost of retiree drug subsidy, PEBB Program Medicare retiree enrollment summary, UMP Classic Medicare rate increase details, challenges to maintaining a self-insured coordination of benefits (COB) plan, and benefit changes for PEBB Program Medicare fully-insured plans.

Introduced premiums resolutions included the following:

- *PEBB 2023-06 – Medicare Explicit Subsidy*
- *PEBB 2023-07 – Kaiser Northwest Medicare Premiums*
- *PEBB 2023-08 – Kaiser Washington Medicare Premiums*
- *PEBB 2023-09 – UnitedHealthcare Medicare Premiums*
- *PEBB 2023-10 – Premera Medicare Premiums*
- *PEBB 2023-11 – UMP Medicare Premiums*

No action was taken, and voting is scheduled to occur on these resolutions at the July 12, 2023 PEB Board meeting.

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided a Medicare Update by reviewing some of the work done by the agency over the past year and next steps for future continued work. Information in the presentation included a list of Medicare-related Board presentation topics in the 2023 season, agency activities related to Medicare offerings since last Board season, details regarding the Congressional delegation letter that was sent, upcoming agency activities, and influencing factors. The presentation also included a copy of the Congressional delegation letter in the appendix.

Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Carol Dotlich**
- **Aruna Bhuta**
- **Amy Fortier**
- **Linnea Mulder**
- **Katie Johnson**
- **Laurie Weidner**
- **Sharon Etheridge**
- **Annette Barca**
- **Marcos [no last name given]**

Topics brought forth during public comments included comments regarding the 2024 Medicare premiums, retiree listening sessions, acknowledgements of staff presentations, pharmacy benefit manager questions, concerns regarding Kaiser's first fill program, UnitedHealthcare assistance, and Medicare Part D questions.

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

July 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Preview of July 12, 2023 PEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the July 12, 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 12:35 p.m. and concluded at 2:43 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.