

**Public Employees Benefits Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**

May 9, 2024  
Health Care Authority  
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B  
Olympia, Washington  
9:00 a.m. – 1:45 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  
Tom MacRobert  
Kurt Spiegel  
Michaela Doelman  
Harry Bossi

**Members Present via Zoom**

None

**Members Absent**

Sharon Laing  
John Comerford

**PEB Board Counsel**

Michael Tunick, AAG (in person)

**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**

Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the March 21, 2024 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.

### **March Meeting Follow Up**

**David Iseminger**, Director, and **Jenny Switzer**, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave a presentation of follow-up information regarding pharmacy administration. The presentation included information on Amazon Rx services and links to the Rx comparison tools for the PEBB Program plans.

### **Supplemental Budget Update**

**Tanya Deuel**, ERB Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division provided an overview of the final 2024 supplemental budget. The overview included the final funding rates, information on the Medicare explicit subsidy, final conference budget funding, information on the consolidation legislative report, obesity and weight loss treatment drugs budget provisions, and additional proviso language.

### **Vision Benefit Design Update**

**Beth Heston**, Procurement Manager and Stella Ng, Policy and Rules Coordinator both in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided a presentation on the PEBB Program's vision benefits. The presentation included vision benefits for employees and non-Medicare retirees, medical benefits for eye disease, vision plan service areas, and policy resolutions for voting.

- *PEBB 2024-12: Fully insured vision plans.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Michaela Doelman seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.
- *PEBB 2024-13: Default enrollment if an employee did not enroll in a PEBB vision plan during the annual open enrollment in 2024.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.
- *PEBB 2024-14: Non-Medicare retiree enrollment requirement.* Harry Bossi moved, and Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.
- *PEBB 2024-15: Amending PEBB 2021-12 (amending resolutions PEBB 2020-04 relating to default enrollments for an employee who fails to make a timely election).* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Kurt Spiegel seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.
- *PEBB 2024-16: Amending PEBB policy resolution "error correction" adopted on July 16, 2014.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Harry Bossi seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.

## **Policy and Rules Development**

**Stella Ng**, Policy and Rules Coordinator and **Emily Duchaine**, Regulatory Analyst in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division brought 11 policy resolutions for voting.

- The following dual enrollment policy resolutions were voted on as a set with a single vote. Elyette Weinstein moved, and Michaela Doelman seconded a motion to approve the set of ten resolutions. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.
  - *PEBB 2024-01: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-02 Employees may waive enrollment in medical.*
  - *PEBB 2024-02: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-03 PEBB benefit enrollment requirements when SEBB benefits are waived.*
  - *PEBB 2024-03: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-04 Resolving dual enrollment when an employee's only medical enrollment is in SEBB.*
  - *PEBB 2024-04: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-05 Resolving dual enrollment involving dual subscriber eligibility.*
  - *PEBB 2024-05: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-06 Resolving dual enrollment involving a PEBB dependent with multiple medical enrollments.*
  - *PEBB 2024-06: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-07 Resolving dual enrollment involving a member with multiple medical enrollments as a dependent.*
  - *PEBB 2024-07: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-08 PEBB benefit automatic enrollments when SEBB benefits are auto-disenrolled.*
  - *PEBB 2024-08: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-09 Enrollment requirements when an employee loses dependent coverage in SEBB benefits.*
  - *PEBB 2024-09: Amending Resolution PEBB 2021-05 PEBB continuation coverage eligibility for employees' dependents.*
  - *PEBB 2024-10: Rescinding Resolution PEBB 2022-02 Employees may waive enrollment in dental.*
  
- *PEBB 2024-11: Amending PEBB 2022-04 Deferring PEBB retiree insurance coverage when the subscriber becomes eligible for the employer contribution.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Kurt Spiegel seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.

## **UMP Benefit Design**

**Ryan Ramsdell**, Uniform Medical Plan Team Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave a presentation on a benefit design change in the PEBB Program. The presentation included information regarding diagnostic and supplemental breast exam coverage as well as information on the UMP diabetes management program. Resolutions to make these benefit changes for plan year 2025 were introduced and are scheduled for a vote at the May board meeting.

## **2024 Annual Rulemaking Briefing**

**Stella Ng**, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division presented an annual rulemaking briefing for the PEBB Program. The briefing included the rulemaking timeline, focus of rulemaking, information on implementing final rules for 2023 legislation, administrative and benefits management, and amendments within HCA's authority.

## **2025 UMP Medicare Plan Option**

**Ellen Wolfhagen**, Retiree Benefits Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, **Luke Dearden**, Clinical Pharmacist from the Clinical Quality and Care Transformation Division, and **Stella Ng**, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division came together to present more information regarding the 2025 UMP Medicare plan option, which also included policy resolutions for voting.

- *PEBB 2024-17: UMP Classic Medicare Part D coverage.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.

The following members of the public provided comments of support regarding PEBB 2024-17:

- **Annette Barca**
- **Mary Demange**
- The following Medicare enrollment policy resolutions were voted on as a set with a single vote. Elyette Weinstein moved, and Michaela Doelman seconded a motion to approve the set of five resolutions. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.
  - *PEBB 2024-18: Automatic enrollment – UMP Classic Medicare – annual open enrollment 2024.*
  - *PEBB 2024-19: UMP Classic Medicare enrollment.*
  - *PEBB 2024-20: UMP Classic Medicare enrollment during gap month(s).*
  - *PEBB 2024-21: Amending PEBB 2022-03 Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug plan enrollment during gap month(s).*
  - *PEBB 2024-22: When a subscriber is involuntarily terminated by a Medicare Part D plan.*

## **General Public Comment**

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Toni Long**
- **Amy Fortier**
- **Annette Barca**

Topics brought forth during public comments included comments of support for PEBB 2024-17, and requests for additions to Medicare plans in the future.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the April 11, 2024 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**

May 9, 2024

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

**Preview of May 9, 2024 PEB Board Meeting**

**Dave Iseminger**, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the May 9, 2024 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.