

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2024
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 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
Harry Bossi
Sharon Laing
Kurt Spiegel
Michaela Doelman

Members Present via Zoom

John Comerford
Tom MacRobert

Members Absent

None

PEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG (in person)

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 13, 2024 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

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 9:12 a.m. and concluded at 9:23 a.m.

June 13 Meeting Follow Up

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave a follow up presentation regarding some requested information regarding pharmacy administration from our last Board meeting. The presentation included links to the pharmacy locator tool, drug price check tools, and Moda's customer service line.

Property/Casualty Insurance via Payroll Deduction Resolution

John Partin, Benefit Strategy and Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division brought a resolution for voting related to the property/casualty insurance benefit and evaluation criteria for future possible benefits.

- *PEBB 2024-25 – Evaluation Criteria for Contracts Under RCW 41.05.065(9).*
Tom MacRobert moved, and John Comerford seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Annual Procurement Update for 2025 Plan Year

Beth Heston, Procurement Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an update on the annual procurement work that helps inform the yearly plan rates. The update included the annual renewal timeline, an IRS mandated consumer directed health plan update, and benefit changes for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest (KPNW), Kaiser Health Plan of Washington (KPWA), Premera, and Uniform Medical Plan.

2025 PEBB Program Non-Medicare Premiums

Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD) introduced non-Medicare premium resolutions for the 2025 plan year.

- *PEBB 2024-28: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest (KPNW) Non-Medicare 2025 Premiums.*
- *PEBB 2024-29: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of WA (KPWA) Non-Medicare 2025 Premiums.*
- *PEBB 2024-30: Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Non-Medicare 2025 Premiums.*

Voting on the resolutions is scheduled for the July 11, 2024 Board meeting.

UMP Classic Medicare with Part D (PDP) Policy Resolutions

Stella Ng, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division brought two policy resolutions for voting regarding UMP Classic Medicare coverage for international members.

- *PEBB 2024-26 –PEBB retiree insurance coverage deferral – permanently live in a location outside of the United States.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-27 –Automatic Deferral – PEBB retiree insurance coverage for Medicare subscribers who permanently live in a location outside of the United States.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Retiree Benefits Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an update on Medicare portfolio changes in the PEBB Program. The update included benefit changes for UnitedHealthcare, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest (KPNW), and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington (KPWA), as well as information regarding a service area update for KPWA, and a proposed change for both KPWA and KPNW from offering a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan to offering a Medicare Advantage with Part D (MA-PD) plan.

2025 PEBB Program Medicare Premiums

Molly Christie, Fiscal Analyst in the Financial Services Division (FSD) introduced Medicare premium resolutions for the 2025 plan year.

- *PEBB 2024-31: Medicare Explicit Subsidy.*
- *PEBB 2024-32: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest (KPNW) Medicare Premium.*
- *PEBB 2024-33: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington (KPWA) Medicare Premium.*
- *PEBB 2024-34: UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Medicare Premiums.*
- *PEBB 2024-35: Premera Medicare Premiums.*
- *PEBB 2024-36: Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Medicare Premium.*

Voting on the resolutions is scheduled for the July 11, 2024 Board meeting.

2025 Board Meeting Schedule

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division introduced the 2025 Board meeting schedule. There were no concerns with dates and the schedule will be filed with the code reviser for final presentation at the July 11, 2024 Board meeting.

General Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Amy Fortier**
- **Aruna Bhuta**
- **Sarah Cook**

Topics brought forth during public comments included requests for full benefits cost for retirees to include dental, vision, and medical; requests for a focus on rural health care in the future; clarifications on Plan F, G, Medicare Advantage plans, and Part D plans; and issues regarding massage therapy network access.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the June 27, 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

July 11, 2024

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of July 11, 2024 PEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the July 11, 2024 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.