

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.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
Kurt Spiegel

Members Present via Zoom

Monica McLemore
Michaela Doelman

Members Absent

None

SEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG (in person)

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

John Comerford moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the July 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

General Program Updates

David Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a general update regarding the PEBB Program. Updates included information regarding the planned launch of Benefits 24/7 in January 2024, the UMP TPA legislative report, and retiree engagement efforts.

2024 Non-Medicare Premiums

Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD), brought resolutions as they were presented on July 12, 2023 to the PEB Board for voting regarding the non-Medicare premiums for 2024. All of the Board members concurred that while they do not support the rate increases for Kaiser Permanente plans, they chose to vote affirmatively in order to keep the Kaiser plans as an option for PEBB Program members. Discussion was had regarding commitments to enhanced open enrollment outreach to educate members on choices and to engage in all efforts possible to mitigate future significant increases.

- *PEBB 2023-12 Kaiser Foundation Plan of the Northwest (KPNW) Non-Medicare 2024 Premiums.* Harry Bossi moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-13 Kaiser Foundation Plan of Washington (KPWA) Non-Medicare 2024 Premiums.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-14 Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Non-Medicare 2024 Premiums.* John Comerford moved, and Harry Bossi seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an update on some information regarding the Medicare population as the agency prepares for open enrollment.

Open Enrollment Preview

Alisa Richards, Benefits Accounts Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a preview of the agency's efforts while planning for open enrollment. The presentation included the open enrollment timeline, updates from the Outreach and Training (O&T) unit, customer service unit, benefits administrator training and readiness, benefits fairs and schedule, open enrollment communications strategy, and an open enrollment member checklist.

SmartHealth: WebMD Implementation

Kristen Stoimenoff, Wellness Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a SmartHealth update that included some information about the January 2024 transition to the new vendor, WebMD. The update included new SmartHealth features and WebMD's acquisition of Limeade.

2024 Board Meeting Schedule

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, presented the finalized 2024 PEB Board meeting schedule that was filed with the code reviser.

General Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Alissa Muller**
- **Linnea Mulder**
- **Christine Clark**

Topics brought forth during public comments included comments regarding parity issues regarding occupational and speech therapy in plans, requests for information regarding the prior authorization approval process, SmartHealth incentives, and interest in SmartHealth for retirees.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the July 19, 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

February 1, 2024 Retreat

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of February 1, 2024 PEB Board Retreat

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the February 1, 2024 retreat. David also acknowledged Connie Bergener, who is retiring in August after over 40 years of state service and served as the PEB Board support person for many years.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.