

Public Employees Benefits Board Retreat
Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2022
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Briefing Book with the complete presentations can be found at:
<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/public-employees-benefits-board-pebb-program/meetings-and-materials>

Members Present via Phone

Sue Birch, Chair
Harry Bossi
Yvonne Tate
Scott Nicholson
Tom MacRobert
John Comerford
Leanne Kunze
Elyette Weinstein

PEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick

Call to Order

Sue Birch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Sufficient members were present to allow a quorum. Board introductions followed. Due to COVID-19 and the Governor's Proclamation 20-28, today's meeting is via Zoom only.

Meeting Overview

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of the agenda.

Washington's Health Care Cost Transparency Board

AnnaLisa Gellermann, Board Manager, Cost Board & Commissions Policy Division, shared the basics of the Health Care Cost Transparency Board (HCCTB), the problem it is solving, decisions made, and next steps.

Pharmaceutical Initiatives and Transparency

Donna Sullivan, Chief Pharmacy Officer, Health Care Authority, provided information on what we do at HCA, such as we are the state's largest health care purchaser.

Cost Transparency & Value-Based Purchasing Impacts – Panel Discussion

Dr. Emily Transue, HCA's Medical Director, led a panel discussion on cost transparency and value-based purchasing and their impacts. Panel participants were:

- Andrew B. Oliveira, MD, MHA, Senior Executive Medical Director, Population Health, Regence Blue Shield, WA
- Ross Laursen, Vice President, Health Care Economics, Premera Blue Cross
- Avantika Waring, MD, Medical Director for KPWA Diabetes Program and Commercial Business
- Kelly D. George, MD, Medical Director of Financial Health, NW Permanente

The panel discussion included:

1. What efforts have the plans made (if any) to increase transparency around costs for consumers?
 - Point of Care – using self-service tools, patient / provider engagement, train providers to initiate engagement
 - Reach out to patient, direct to high quality care
 - Location of online tools can be difficult for users, access points are critical
 - Better access to know what drugs are covered by individual plans
2. How do transparency efforts fit with the transition to value-based reimbursement arrangements, and what can be done to maximize the intersection of the two?
 - Incentivize patient to use better quality services. Goal = highest quality at lower cost.
 - Provider information to practice transformation
 - Difficult to change daily workflow. Goal is to pay for value versus service.
 - Total concept care agreements are the way to go. They provide as much information as possible to network partners.
 - Culture needs to change. Peer pressure for provider groups to change culture.
3. How do you see the work and information coming out of initiatives like the Cost Transparency Board, drug pricing transparency, and hospital price transparency from the feds impacting consumer, provider, and market behaviors?
 - Every stakeholder makes a difference. Lots of competing directives. Keep transparency pressure on and information fresh. Provide meaningful information to public and members.
 - Social determinants – equity.
 - Kaiser WA – standardized health process. Connect patient to community-based resources. Ask questions. Screening up front. Medication affordability.
 - KPNW – Clinic navigators available to patients with issues (transportation, food, medication, cost issues). Social determinant algorithm.
 - Premera – Social impact program. Collecting information to understand better.

Washington State Demographics

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division and **John Partin**, Manager, Benefit Strategy and Design Section, ERB Division provided statistics on residents covered by the Health Care Authority programs, Washington State unemployment, residents without health insurance, and Residents living in poverty.

Cobra Subsidy Final Report

Kat Cook, Benefit Strategy Analyst, Benefit Strategy and Design Section, ERB Division provided information on the COBRA subsidy.

2022 Open Enrollment Summary

Renee Bourbeau, Manager, Benefits Accounts Section, ERB Division and **Stacy Grof-Tisza**, Customer Service Operations Manager, ERB Division shared information on processes and data from the 2022 open enrollment.

PEBB 2022 Enrollment Changes

Beth Heston, PEBB Procurement Manager, ERB Division, provided information on the 2022 enrollment changes.

Long-Term Disability Insurance

Kimberly Gazard, Contract Manager, ERB Division, provided an update on the LTD benefit with examples and 2021 preliminary results.

Benefit Update – Tax-Advantaged Accounts

Martin Thies, Portfolio Management and Monitoring Section provided a recap of the benefit and design change, 2022 enrollment update, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA).

Dual Enrollment Implementation

Cade Walker, Executive Special Assistant, ERB Division provided background and implementation efforts for dual enrollment updates.

PEBB Modernization Project

Jessica Pratt-McConnel, Strategic Plan Project Manager, ERB Division shared an overview of the project, introduced its functionality, and the project timeline.

2022 Legislative Session & Recent Legislative Reports

Cade Walker, Executive Special Assistant, ERB Division, gave an overview of the start of the 2022 legislative session.

Governor’s Proposed Budget Update – PEBB

Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager, Financial Services Division, provided an update on the Governor’s proposed budget.

Procurement and Benefit Planning Cycles

John Partin, Manager, Benefit Strategy and Design Section, ERB Division shared the Benefit Year 2023 and Benefit Year 2024 procurement cycles.

PEBB Trend Overview

Molly Christie, Fiscal Information Data Analyst, Financial Services Division, shared what medical trend is, what does that trend tell us, what drives that trend, and what trends does HCA track for PEBB?

2022 Board Overview

Dave Iseminger provided a preview of topics for the 2022 Board season. Things to come: rules and policy development; appeal issues; Medicare enrollment process; annual renewal process (RFR); offerings for 2023.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

March 10, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.