

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2023
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:03 a.m. – 12:31 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
Michaela Doelman

Members Present via Zoom

Monica McLemore
Kurt Spiegel

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

Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the June 29, 2023 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

2024 Medicare Premiums

Molly Christie, Fiscal Analyst in the Financial Services Division, presented six resolutions to the Board for a vote regarding the 2024 PEBB Program Medicare portfolio premiums and Medicare Explicit Subsidy.

- *PEBB 2023-06 Medicare Explicit Subsidy.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Harry Bossi seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-07 Kaiser Northwest Medicare 2024 Premiums.* Harry Bossi moved, and Michaela Doelman seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-08 Kaiser Washington Medicare 2024 Premiums.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-09 UnitedHealthcare Medicare 2024 Premiums.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-10 Premera Medicare 2024 Premiums.* Michaela Doelman moved, and Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-11 Uniform Medical Plan 2024 Premiums.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

The following members of the public provided comments relating to resolution PEBB 2023-11:

- **Amy Fortier**, with concerns

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided a Medicare update that included responses to some questions asked earlier in the Board season. The presentation included COVID-19 vaccine Medicare coverage information, information about the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) reach and its relation to Medicare, and UnitedHealthcare appeals information.

2024 Non-Medicare Benefits Changes

Beth Heston, Procurement Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a presentation outlining some proposed changes to the PEBB portfolio plans in 2024. Information in the presentation included updates to the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington, and the Uniform Medical Plan.

2024 Non-Medicare Premiums

Megan Atkinson, Chief Financial Officer and **Tanya Deuel**, ERB Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division, provided information regarding the 2024 non-Medicare Premiums for the PEBB Program. The presentation included information regarding the rate setting process with Kaiser Permanente, the annual renewal timeline, proposed 2024 employee premium information, proposed 2024 non-Medicare retiree premium information, and details regarding dental, life & AD&D, long-term disability (LTD) 2024 premium information. Also included were the proposed premium resolutions for 2024:

- *PEBB 2023-12 Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest Non-Medicare 2024 Premiums*
- *PEBB 2023-13 Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Non-Medicare 2024 Premiums*
- *PEBB 2023-14 Uniform Medical Plan Non-Medicare 2024 Premiums*

No action was taken, and voting is scheduled to occur on these resolutions at the July 19, 2023 PEB Board meeting.

Kaiser Permanente Insights

Kelly Meehan Cook, Director of Strategic Account Management from Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington, and **Jennifer Stacy**, Interim Vice President of Marketing, Sales, and Business Development from Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest, provided some insights related to the 2024 Kaiser Permanente plan offerings. The Kaiser Permanente team's presentation included three slides that outlined increasing health care costs, and the benefits of Kaiser Permanente coverage.

Procurements Insights

Shawna Lang, Portfolio Management and Monitoring Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division, provided insights about the procurement process used by the agency for the PEBB Program. The presentation included information about the agency's standard contract timeframe, what starts a procurement, procurement considerations, procurement time length, other factors impacting timeframes, and two examples using the procurement information.

SmartHealth: WebMD Implementation

This presentation was moved to the July 19, 2023 meeting due to time constraints.

2024 Board Meeting Schedule

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, presented the proposed 2024 PEB Board meeting schedule. The schedule had no objections and will be filed with the code reviser in July 2023.

General Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Fred Yancey**
- **Sandie Reynolds**
- **Aruna Bhuta**
- **Linnea Mulder**

Topics brought forth during public comments included comments regarding the 2024 Medicare premiums, UnitedHealthcare concerns, Accountable Care Organization (ACO) reach.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the July 12, 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 19, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Preview of July 19, 2023 PEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the July 19, 2023 PEB Board Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.