

School Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2023
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms & Virtual
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Members Present via Zoom

Lou McDermott, Chair
Dawna Hansen-Murray
Amy Griffin
Alison Poulsen
Terri House
Pamela Kruse

Member Present on Site

Myra Johnson
Kerry Schaefer

SEB Board Counsel

Katy Hatfield, AAG

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Sufficient members were present to allow a quorum. Board Members and the public may attend either in person or virtually.

One new Board member was introduced.

- Myra Johnson, nationally board-certified elementary school counselor at Park Lodge Elementary School

Meeting Overview

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

Focus on Health Literacy Panel

John Partin, Benefit Strategy and Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, facilitated a panel discussion regarding health literacy. Panel members included Geoffrey Ankeney, MD, from Kaiser Permanente of Washington, Nicole Saint Clair, MD, FACOG, from Washington Regence Blue Shield, and Josephine Young, MD, MPH, MBA, FAAP, from Premera Blue Cross.

The panel discussion centered around personal and organizational health literacy. Topics included relationships between members and health care professionals, sensitivity to cultures, supporting employers with their populations, inequities and disparities between groups, active listening, quality of care, and financial barriers.

Ending State COVID Emergency Impacts

Cade Walker, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an update on the Governor's State of Emergency that ended on October 31, 2022. For both the PEBB and SEBB Programs, this means that the time frames for turning in enrollment forms and extensions for certain types of benefit coverage, like COBRA, have returned to the regular timing. Specific to the SEBB Program, the benefit eligibility created by RCW 41.05.744 ended and any employee that lost eligibility was offered COBRA coverage, though the number of impacted employees was relatively small.

SEBB Open Enrollment Summary

Alisa Richards, Benefits Accounts Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, and **Stacy Grof-Tisza**, Customer Service Unit Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, presented a debrief regarding the SEBB Program's open enrollment for the 2023 plan year. Alisa and Stacy's updates included open enrollment readiness, highlights, UMP network disruption concerns, customer service productivity, and strategies for post-enrollment and the future.

Open Enrollment Plan Changes

Beth Heston, Procurement Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a debrief on the enrollment changes that occurred during the PEBB Program open enrollment period. Updates included enrollment net changes, open enrollment switching flow, and deductible switching in the SEBB Program.

Benefit Update: Medical Flexible Spending Arrangement & Dependent Care Assistance Program (FSA & DCAP)

Martin Thies, Fully Insured Account Unit Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview on the medical Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) and Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP). The presentation included an overview of the benefits, 2022 design changes, enrollment and election comparisons, 2023 participation and savings, 2022 procurement, and administrative enhancements.

PEBB Program Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave an update on Medicare benefits, pre-open enrollment outreach efforts, the Stakeholders' Medicare Coalition, and continued outreach efforts in 2023.

Benefits 24/7 Application

Chartrina Pitsch, IT Project Manager in the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division provided an update on the Benefits 24/7 application and its progress toward launching later in 2023. Details of the update included the origination of the project, expanded scope, what is changing for subscribers, improvements for benefits administrators, what stays the same, the administrative and subscriber dashboards, requested changes, data depot, continuation/retiree coverage, and a high-level timeline of the project.

Pharmacy Network Utilization

Luke Dearden, Clinical Pharmacist in the Clinical Quality and Care Transformation (CQCT) Division provided information regarding pharmacy network utilization in the PEBB Program. Topics included an overview of the UMP pharmacy network as well as UMP pharmacy use for the SEBB Program, mail order pharmacies, critical access pharmacies, and SEBB Program conclusions.

2023 Legislative Session and Legislative Reports Update

Cade Walker, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division brought details regarding the 2023 legislative session and legislative reports. These details included the number of bills analyzed last session as well as this session so far by the ERB Division, recent and upcoming legislative reports, a breakdown of ERB lead bills, requested legislation, and topical areas of introduced legislation.

Governor's Proposed Budget Update and Collective Bargaining Agreement Preview

Tanya Deuel, Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD) provided an update on both the Governor's proposed budget and the collective bargaining agreement. Information regarding the 2023-25 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) included school employees' health care funding. Tanya's presentation also outlined a Governor's budget update, including the fiscal year (FY) 2023 supplemental budget funded decision packages, the 2023-25 SEBB Program funding rate, the 2023-25 biennial budget funded decision packages, and additional dental details.

Procurement and Benefit Planning Cycles

John Partin, Benefit Strategy and Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division presented on the procurement and benefit planning cycles within the SEBB Program. Topics included development of benefit designs, as well as the SEBB Program's procurement cycle for 2024 and the benefits planning cycle for 2025.

Proposed SEB Board By-laws Amendment

Dave Iseminger, Division Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, introduced a proposed amendment to the SEB Board by-laws. Dave included information regarding why the amendment may need updated and outlined the proposed changes.

Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

Next Meeting

March 2, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Preview of March 2, 2023 SEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the March 2, 2023 Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.