

**Public Employees Benefits Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**

January 30, 2025  
Health Care Authority  
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B  
Olympia, Washington  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 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  
Michaela Doelman

**Members Present via Zoom**

Elyette Weinstein  
Tom MacRobert  
Harry Bossi  
Sharon Laing  
Kurt Spiegel  
John Comerford

**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 9:03 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 of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an overview of the agenda.

### **Provider Networks Panel Discussion**

**John Partin**, Benefit Strategy and Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division facilitated an educational panel discussion regarding provider networks with Denise Corcoran, Vice President of Contracting from Regence Blue Shield of WA and Ty Terry, Director of Provider Contracting, Health Plan Pricing, and Operations and Contracts from Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of WA (KPWA).

### **Office of Financial Management (OFM) State Budget Update**

**Robyn Williams**, Interim Budget Director from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) provided an update on the state budget circumstances. Information in the update included 2025-27 state biennial budget context, revenue forecast and updates, budget requirements, Governor Inslee's proposed budget, and budget timeline.

### **Plan Year 2025 Open Enrollment Summary**

**Alisa Richards**, Benefits Accounts Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division presented on the agency's efforts during, and the results of, the PEBB Program plan year 2025 open enrollment. The presentation included information about the Benefits Accounts section of the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division, open enrollment readiness, highlights, and benefits fairs, and PEBB Program enrollment changes.

### **Benefits 24/7 Update**

**Clinton Brooks**, ERB Solution Architect in the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division provided an update regarding the Benefits 24/7 application. The update included information on the first-year plan for Benefits 24/7, open enrollment overview, pain points with the application, and the 2025 roadmap.

### **Legislative Session Update and Governor Inslee's Proposed Budget Update**

**Cade Walker**, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division and **Tanya Deuel**, ERB Finance Manager in the Finance Services & Health Care Purchasing Administration brought forth a legislative update as well as an overview of Governor Inslee's proposed budget. Information included recent legislative reports, agency requested legislation, current legislation, 2025 supplemental budget information, 2025-27 biennial budget overview to include collective bargaining agreement points, Governor Inslee's proposed budget funded decision packages, Governor Inslee's proposals to address the budget deficit, and the 2025-27 PEBB Program funding rate.

### **Policy Resolution**

**Stella Ng**, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division introduced a resolution for voting regarding automatic deferral for PEBB Program retirees who permanently live outside of the United States.

- *PEBB 2025-01: Automatic deferral – PEBB retiree insurance coverage for subscribers who permanently live in a location outside of the United States.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Michaela Doelman seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Contracts and Benefit Planning Cycles**

**John Partin**, Benefit Strategy and Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided information regarding the procurement and

benefit planning cycles for the PEBB Program. Information included an overview of the development of benefit designs, contracts renewal cycle, and the benefits planning cycle.

### **Employee Engagement Survey Results**

**Missy Yates**, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division presented results from a recent employee engagement survey. The presentation included survey background, subscriber priorities, satisfaction ratings, subscriber pain points, health care literacy, and demographics participation.

### **Medicare Update**

**Laura Ryan**, Retiree Benefits Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave an update regarding retirees in the PEBB Program and continued engagement efforts with the retiree population. The update included an introduction, enrollment information for non-Medicare and Medicare retirees from open enrollment, open enrollment changes, carrier plan information, a recap of benefits fairs, and communications improvements.

### **2025 PEB Board Season Preview**

**David Iseminger**, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave a preview of anticipated coming attractions through the 2025 Board season.

### **General Public Comment**

The following members provided public comments:

- Matt Groshong

Topics brought forth during public comments included concerns with UnitedHealthcare.

Details of the January 30, 2025 PEB Board 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>

### **Next Meeting**

March 13, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

### **Preview of March 13, 2025 PEB Board Meeting**

**David Iseminger**, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the March 13, 2025 Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.