

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 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

MaryAnne Lindeblad, Chair
Harry Bossi
Michaela Doelman
John Comerford
Elyette Weinstein
Tom MacRobert

Members Present via Zoom

Sharon Laing
Kurt Spiegel

Members Absent

None

PEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG (in person)

Call to Order

MaryAnne Lindeblad, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 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

Elyette Weinstein moved, and John Comerford seconded a motion to approve the March 13, 2025 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Sharon Laing was absent for voting.

March Meeting Follow Up

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave a follow up presentation regarding some requested information regarding the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program. The information included details on whether the program pertains to standalone Medicare Part D plans or only Medicare Advantage Part D plans.

Legislative Update and Budget Update

Cade Walker, Benefit Strategy and Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division and Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager in the Finance Services and Health Care Purchasing Administration presented the latest updates from the legislative session and state budget work. The legislative update presentation included bill analyses by the ERB Division, high priority bill status, agency requested legislation, and current legislation tracked by the ERB Division. The budget update presentation included the budget timeline, 2025 supplemental budget information, 2025-27 biennial budget information, as well as additional budget items that were similar in the House and Senate proposed budgets. The budget update also included proposals for addressing the state budget deficit that were similar between the House and Senate proposed budgets, and the proposed PEBB Program funding rates and Medicare explicit subsidy amount for each proposed budget.

Policy & Rules Development

Stella Ng, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division introduced a resolution regarding PEBB Program retiree coverage.

- *PEBB 2025-02: PEBB retiree insurance coverage when the subscriber's dependent becomes eligible.*

Voting on the resolution is scheduled for the May 15, 2025 Board meeting.

2025 Annual Rulemaking Briefing

Stella Ng, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division The overview included a rulemaking timeline, and the year's focus on rulemaking categorized into three sections: administration and benefits management, regulatory alignment, and amendments within HCA's authority.

Benefits 24/7 Update

Brett Mello, Chief Information Officer in the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division gave an update on the Benefits 24/7 system. The update included a stabilization update continued progress and ERB IT staffing, as well as next steps for Benefits 24/7 stabilization efforts.

PEBB Program Annual Renewal Process

Beth Heston, PEBB Program Procurement Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division provided an overview of the annual plan renewal process for the PEBB Program. The overview included details of the annual renewal process containing

information regarding evaluating the PEBB Program portfolio, the ERB request for renewal workplans and drafting, negotiations with the carriers on their proposals, and presenting benefit changes to the PEB Board for authorization.

General Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Fred Yancey**
- **Lisa Cook**

Topics brought forth during public comments included considerations regarding the annual plan renewal process and spousal surcharges for households that have eligibility in both the PEBB and SEBB Programs.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the April 10, 2025 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

May 15, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of May 15, 2025 PEB Board Meeting

David Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the May 15, 2025 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.