

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

April 13, 2023  
Health Care Authority  
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B  
Olympia, Washington  
9:00 a.m. – 1:15 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**

Sue Birch, Chair  
Michaela Doelman  
Tom MacRobert

**Members Present via Zoom**

Kurt Spiegel  
Elyette Weinstein  
Monica McLemore  
John Comerford  
Harry Bossi

**Members Absent**

None

**SEB Board Counsel**

Michael Tunick, AAG

**Call to Order**

**Sue Birch, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Tom MacRobert moved, and Michaela Doelman seconded a motion to approve the February 2, 2023 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Elyette Weinstein moved, and Monica McLemore seconded a motion to approve the March 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

### **March Meeting Follow Up**

**David Iseminger**, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided some follow up items in response to questions asked at the March Board meeting. Items brought back included information about eligibility for the Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rulemaking.

### **2023-25 Budget Update**

**Tanya Deuel**, Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD), presented an update on the 2023-25 biennial budget. The presentation included legislative proposed funding rates, the Medicare explicit subsidy, proposed budget similarities, proviso language, and dental details.

### **Legislative Update**

**Cade Walker**, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an update on relevant bills moving in legislative session. Requested legislation and topical bills were discussed.

### **Policy and Rules Development**

**Stella Ng**, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, brought two policy resolutions to the Board for voting.

- *PEBB 2023-01 – When a subscriber has a change in residence that affects medical plan availability.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2023-02 – When a subscriber is involuntarily terminated by a Medicare Advantage (MA) or Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plan.* Kurt Spiegel moved, and Monica McLemore seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote. The Board received public comment regarding this resolution from Aruna Bhuta, who had questions about why this situation would occur.

### **Annual Rulemaking Briefing**

**Stella Ng**, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview on of the annual rulemaking process, including information regarding the timeline and focus of this year's work, as well as implementing legislation, administrative and benefits management, and regulatory alignment.

### **Over-The-Counter Hearing Instruments**

**Janice McAlpin**, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave an update on over-the-counter hearing instruments. This topic

was inquired about in a previous Board meeting. The presentation included information regarding comparisons between over-the-counter hearing instruments and prescription hearing instruments, top ranked over-the-counter hearing instruments in 2023, and coverage of over-the-counter hearing instruments in the PEBB Program.

### **SmartHealth Update**

**Kristen Stoimenoff**, Wellness Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided a SmartHealth update, which included information regarding the Secure Access Washington (SAW) transition for SmartHealth, trends for program participation and employees, Limeade recommendations, and a Washington Wellness Program evaluation.

### **Procurement Update**

**Shawna Lang**, Portfolio Management and Monitoring Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided information about procurement efforts in the SEBB Program regarding the following programs: the flexible spending arrangement (FSA) and dependent care assistance program (DCAP), the wellness program, and the accountable care program.

### **Medicare Update**

**Ellen Wolfhagen**, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a Medicare update that included a Medicare review; Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) information, amounts, and impacts; Medicare enrollment requirements; Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey information and results; and a progress report on the PEBB Program retiree listening sessions and public forums and other retiree engagements.

### **Public Comment**

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Amy Fortier**, regarding the procurement presentation with comments
- **Nathan Johnson**, regarding the Kaiser pharmacy first fill program with concerns
- **Katie Johnson**, regarding the Kaiser pharmacy first fill program with concerns
- **Aruna Bhuta**, regarding the Kaiser pharmacy first fill program with questions
- **Laurel Lemke**, following up from a previous comment made at a prior meeting and sharing the resolution
- **Ann Monroe**, regarding the Kaiser pharmacy first fill program with comments

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the April 13, 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**

May 11, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### **Preview of May 11, 2023 PEB Board Meeting**

**Dave Iseminger**, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the May 11, 2023 PEB Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.