

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

May 15, 2025  
Health Care Authority  
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B  
Olympia, Washington  
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 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**

Lou McDermott, Chair Pro-Tem  
Tom MacRobert  
Elyette Weinstein  
John Comerford

**Members Present via Zoom**

Harry Bossi  
Sharon Laing  
Kurt Spiegel  
Michaela Doelman

**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 9:04 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**

Voting on the April 10, 2025 Board meeting minutes was postponed to the June 12, 2025 Board meeting.

### **April Meeting Follow Up**

**David Iseminger**, Director of the ERB Division gave a follow-up presentation to answer a question asked in the last meeting regarding any changes the federal administration may have made to the Medicare drug price negotiation program. The presentation included information on an Executive Order signed by the president in April that provided some insights. None of the points appear to affect the program in the near future.

### **Legislative and Budget Update**

**Cade Walker**, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the ERB Division and Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager in the Finance Services and Health Care Purchasing Administration presented an overview of the 2025 legislative session and budget information. The legislative update presentation included bill analyses by the ERB Division, high priority bill status, agency requested legislation, and passed legislation tracked by the ERB Division. The budget update presentation included the budget timeline, 2025 supplemental budget information, 2025-27 biennial budget information, included items to help address the state budget deficit, the PEBB Program funding rates, and Medicare explicit subsidy information.

### **Policy and Rules Development**

**Stella Ng**, Policy and Rules Coordinator in the ERB Division brought back a resolution for voting regarding PEBB Program retiree insurance coverage.

- *PEBB 2025-02: PEBB Retiree Insurance Coverage When the Subscriber's Dependent Becomes Eligible.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Long-Term Disability (LTD) Update**

**Kimberly Gazard**, Senior Account Manager in the ERB Division introduced a resolution to increase the employer-paid long-term disability benefit which would take effect January 1, 2026 for new claims.

- *PEBB 2025-03: Amending PEBB Resolution 2021-13 – Employer-Paid Long-Term Disability (LTD).*

No action was taken on the resolution in this meeting. The resolution will be brought back to the June 12, 2025 Board meeting for voting.

### **UMP Benefit Design**

**Ryan Ramsdell**, UMP Team Manager in the ERB Division presented a change to a UMP resolution passed last year by the Board regarding diagnostic and supplemental breast exam coverage. The proposed change would remove existing policy language so that certain procedures can be covered in the UMP Consumer Directed Health Plan without the member needing to first meet their plan deductible. The resolution was both introduced and voted on in this meeting to allow the PEBB Program to address related claims currently being held by Regence.

- *PEBB 2025-04: Amending Resolution PEBB 2024-23 – UMP Diagnostic & Supplemental Breast Exam Coverage.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and John Comerford seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote.

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

**Jean Bui**, Deputy Director of the ERB Division gave an update on the Benefits 24/7 system. The presentation included a stabilization update, budget funding for IT positions, stakeholder feedback information, and program initiatives for the remainder of the 2025 plan year. Brett Mello was unable to join the meeting for the presentation.

### **General Public Comment**

The following members of the public provided comments:

- **Aruna Bhuta**
- **Alicia Berry**

Topics brought forth during public comments included a request for more Benefits 24/7 stabilization information, and a request to revise rules in the PEBB Program regarding state-registered domestic partnerships.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the May 15 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**

June 12, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

### **Preview of June 12, 2025 PEB Board Meeting**

**David Iseminger**, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the June 12, 2025 meeting.

### **Executive Session**

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(L), the Board met in in Executive Session to consider proprietary or confidential nonpublished information related to the development, acquisition, or implementation of state purchased health care services as provided in RCW 41.05.026. The Executive Session began at 11:34 a.m. and concluded at 1:29 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.