

Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2024
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 12:15 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

Lou McDermott, Chair Pro-Tem
Harry Bossi
Tom MacRobert
Elyette Weinstein
Michaela Doelman

Members Present via Zoom

Sharon Laing
Kurt Spiegel

Members Absent

John Comerford

PEB Board Counsel

Michael Tunick, AAG (in person)

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, Chair Pro-Tem, called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the June 27, 2024 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

KPWA End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program

Beth Heston, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an overview of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington's (KPWA) end-stage renal disease program. The overview included information regarding why the program is being introduced, Medicare hurdles, patient qualification, benefits, and where members can go with questions.

2025 PEBB Program Non-Medicare Premiums

Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD) brought back the plan year 2025 non-Medicare premium resolutions for voting.

- *PEBB 2024-28: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest (KPNW) Non-Medicare 2025 Premiums.* Kurt Spiegel moved, and Harry Bossi seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-29: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of WA (KPWA) Non-Medicare 2025 Premiums.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-30: Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Non-Medicare 2025 Premiums.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

2025 PEBB Program Medicare Premiums

Molly Christie, Fiscal Analyst in the Financial Services Division (FSD) brought back plan year 2025 Medicare premium resolutions for voting.

- *PEBB 2024-31: Medicare Explicit Subsidy.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Harry Bossi seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-32: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest (KPNW) Medicare Premium.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-33: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington (KPWA) Medicare Premium.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Harry Bossi seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-34: UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Medicare Premiums.* Harry Bossi moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-35: Premiera Medicare Premiums.* Tom MacRobert moved, and Elyette Weinstein seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
- *PEBB 2024-36: Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Medicare Premium.* Elyette Weinstein moved, and Tom MacRobert seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Retiree Benefits Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an update on the PEBB Program UMP Classic Medicare with Part D plan. The update included myths and facts about the plan, the implementation status, and the communications timeline.

Open Enrollment Preview

Alisa Richards, Benefits Accounts Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave a preview of the agency's efforts while planning for open enrollment. The presentation included the open enrollment timeline, updates from the Outreach and Training (O&T) unit, customer service unit, benefits administrator training and readiness, benefits fairs and schedule, communications strategy, Benefits 24/7 readiness, and an open enrollment member checklist.

Consolidation Report Update

Cade Walker, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided information on the legislative report analysis being done by the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division regarding how consolidation of the PEBB and SEBB Programs could occur. The information included a history of past consolidation reports, the latest legislative report requirements, current Board structures, statutes, and insights, single governing Board options, risk pool information before and after theoretical consolidation, current and consolidated eligibility, information on a single portfolio of benefits, and the planned stakeholder engagement and feedback process. The report is due to the legislature by December 1, 2024.

2025 Board Meeting Schedule

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division brought back the finalized 2025 Board meeting schedule for the Board's reference.

General Public Comment

The following members of the public provided comments:

- Fred Yancey
- Aruna Bhuta
- Toni Long
- Christine Clark
- Jim Slosson
- Annette Barca
- Kenny Washington

Topics brought forth during public comments included appreciation for Ellen Wolfhagen's work, feedback about the PEBB/SEBB consolidation report preliminary analysis, questions and feedback about the Part D plan, SEBB retiree issues, and representation of public hospitals in the program.

Their testimonies can be found in the audio recording for the July 11, 2024 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

PEB Board Retreat

January 30, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of January 30, 2025 PEB Board Retreat

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the January 30, 2025 Board retreat. David also acknowledged Ellen Wolfhagen, who is retiring in December.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.