

School Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

January 23, 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/school-employees-benefits-board-sebb-program/meetings-and-materials>

Members Present in Olympia

Lou McDermott
Kerry Schaefer
Pamela Kruse
Myra Johnson
Lara Christopherson

Members Present via Zoom

Alison Poulsen
Dawna Hansen-Murray
Terri House
Omeid Heidari

Members Absent

None

SEB Board Counsel

Katy Hatfield, AAG

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, 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 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, Alacia Broussard, Vice President of Contracting, Network Operations, and Strategy from Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of WA (KPWA), and Jennifer Sanders, Vice President of Provider Networks from Premera.

During the panel discussion, the meeting was interrupted by a public disturbance from a Zoom attendee. The meeting paused for approximately 15 minutes before resuming.

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 SEBB 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 SEBB 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 SEBB Program funding rate.

Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) Collective Bargaining Update

Kelsie Pele, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division presented on an upcoming benefit addition to the flexible spending arrangement benefit in the SEBB Program. The presentation included the core FSA benefit structure, FSA carryover design details, SEBB Program collective bargaining FSA benefit overview and eligibility criteria, Navia Benefit Solutions debit card design, as well as operational insights to include estimated recipients and key messages communication.

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 SEBB 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, communications improvements, and information regarding SEBB Program retirees returning to work.

2025 SEB 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:

- Shirley Chittenden
- Melissa Bartolo

Topics brought forth during public comments included concerns regarding Benefits 24/7, issues faced during open enrollment, and concerns about cost and coverage in the SEBB Program.

An audio recording for the January 23, 2025 SEB Board meeting can be found at:

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/school-employees-benefits-board-sebb-program/meetings-and-materials>

Next Meeting

March 6, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of March 6, 2025 SEB Board Meeting

David Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the March 6, 2025 Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.