

School Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 3:45 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
Myra Johnson
Pamela Kruse
Alison Poulsen
Dawna Hansen-Murray

Members Present via Zoom

Amy Griffin
Terri House (arrived around 11:00 a.m.)

Members Absent

None

SEB Board Counsel

Katy Hatfield, AAG (in person)

Call to Order

Lou McDermott, Chair, 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 of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an overview of the agenda.

Equity in Health Care Access and Outcomes Panel Discussion

Heather Schultz, Associate Medical Director for the SEBB Program, facilitated an educational panel discussion regarding equity in health care access and outcomes. Panel participants included Lan Nguyen, MD, from Premera, Tracy Muday, MD, from Regence, Geoffrey Ankeney, MD, from Kaiser Permanente, and Quyen Huynh, DNP, from the Health Care Authority.

SEBB Program Equitable Access to Health Care Workgroup

Missy Yates, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave an update on the work being done in the workgroup focusing on increasing equitable access to health care created from the 2020 bargaining session with the SEBB Program's school employee labor partners. The update included information regarding the data collection strategy, collecting meaningful data, workgroup goals regarding the data, a community engagement strategy, and a tentative timeline.

Behavioral Health Network Adequacy Discussion

Andrea Philhower, Fully Insured Team Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided some insights about behavioral health network adequacy. The presentation included the history of network access standards, the difference between network adequacy and timely access to care, what is included in network access, adequate network access, what happens when a plan can't meet the standards, information on Brennen's law, SEBB Program behavioral health network adequacy requirements, carrier network access insights, and behavioral health services communications to members.

Plan Year 2024 Open Enrollment Summary

Alisa Richards, Benefits Accounts Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division presented an update on the agency's efforts during, and the results of, the PEBB Program plan year 2024 open enrollment. The summary included benefits accounts information, open enrollment readiness, communications strategy overview, open enrollment highlights, SEBB Program enrollment net changes, switching flow, and deductible switching. A copy of the SEBB employee monthly premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket limits was included in the appendix.

Benefits 24/7 Update

Amanda Neville, Senior Business Analyst in the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division, provided some information regarding the Benefits 24/7 application that launch earlier in the year. The update included improvements for SEBB Organizations, what's changing for subscribers, what stays the same, benefit administrator dashboard and training support, and communications.

Study on Contracting for Administration of UMP

Ryan Ramsdell, UMP Team Manager the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave a debrief on the legislative report regarding the study on contracting for administration of the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP). The debrief included information on Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5693, UMP operations prior to 2011 and from 2011 to current, information about what the UMP third party administration (TPA) currently manages, scaling TPA efforts, returning provider contracting to HCA, returning UMP TPA functions considerations, and important considerations regarding the report. A link to the report was also provided in the presentation as well as a copy in the appendix.

Governor's Supplemental Budget and Legislative Update

Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager in the Financial Services Division (FSD) and **Cade Walker**, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, gave an update on the Governor's supplemental budget and legislative session so far. The budget update included funded decision packages in the proposed supplemental budget, as well as the SEBB funding rates. The legislative presentation included information about legislative reports, bill analyses and legislative bill progress for SEBB Program relevant bills, agency requested legislation, and 2024 legislation.

Procurement and Benefit Planning Cycles

John Partin, Benefit Strategy and Design Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave a presentation on the procurement and benefit planning cycles for the SEBB Program. The presentation included development of benefit designs, the SEBB Program contracts renewal cycle, and the SEBB Program benefits planning cycle.

Retail Pharmacy Trends

Jenny Switzer, Senior Account Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division provided an overview of some retail pharmacy trends that are being noticed in the SEBB Program. The overview included pharmacy types in the United States, Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) pharmacy changes, pharmacy closures, UMP's response, Washington state pharmacy closures, and outreach to members.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Update

Luke Dearden, Clinical Pharmacist in the Clinical Quality and Care Transformation (CQCT) Division presented an update regarding the Inflation Reduction Act. The update included an overview of the Inflation Reduction Act, Part D benefit design details, drug price negotiations, drugs picked for 2026, drug price increase protection, and the cap on insulin cost-share.

Medicare Update

Ellen Wolfhagen, Retiree Benefits Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division gave an update on the PEBB Program retiree legislative report and engagement efforts with the retiree population.

2024 SEB Board Preview

David Iseminger, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division

General Public Comment

No members of the public provided general comments at this meeting.

An audio recording for the January 25, 2024 SEB Board retreat 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 14, 2024

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of March 14, 2024 SEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the March 14, 2024 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.