

School Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2025
Health Care Authority
Sue Crystal Rooms A & B
Olympia, Washington
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 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
Alison Poulsen
Lara Christopherson

Members Present via Zoom

Myra Johnson
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 9:03 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

Alison Poulsen moved, and Pamela Kruse seconded a motion to approve the July 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Pamela Kruse moved, and Alison Poulsen seconded a motion to approve the January 23, 2025 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Legislative Update

Cade Walker, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division provided an update on the latest news about bills from the current legislative session. The update included bill analyses by the ERB Division, ERB lead high priority bill status, agency requested legislation, and current legislation tracked by the division.

Budget Reduction Options

Tanya Deuel, ERB Finance Manager in the Finance Services and Health Care Purchasing Administration and **Dave Iseminger**, Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division presented on the agency's ongoing budget reduction scenario work in order to help address the state budget deficit. The presentation included an overview of the revenue forecast, the spending freeze, reduction targets, and budget reduction instructions as well as SEBB Program funding information, HCA's budget reduction option submission topics, and Governor Ferguson's February 27 budget reduction proposal. The presentation also included an appendix that contained the Governor Directive 24-19, OFM direction to agencies on 2025-27 budget reduction proposals, Governor Ferguson's budget priorities for 2025-27, and agency-identified reduction scenarios for fiscal year 2025 and 2025-27 biennium.

Benefits 24/7 Update

Brett Mello, Chief Information Officer in the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division and **Jean Bui**, Deputy Director of the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division gave an update on the Benefits 24/7 system. The update included an introduction to the new Chief Information Officer, a recruitment update of key positions, and a 2025 stabilization update.

Open Enrollment Appeals Update

Bonnie Marshall, ERB Staff Attorney in the Office of Legal Affairs section of the Division of Legal Services brought an overview of the SEBB Program appeals from the plan year 2025 open enrollment. The overview included an appeals overview, the appeals process for the SEBB Program, the process for the employer, and the process for the Office of Legal Affairs, as well as information regarding an initial order, a final order, appeals trends, and a snapshot of appeals.

Provider Prior Authorization Process Legislation

Heather Schultz, ERB Medical Director from the Clinical Quality and Care Transformation Division and **Jenny Switzer**, Senior Account Manager from the Employees and Retirees Benefits Division presented on the provider prior authorization process legislation. The presentation included a prior authorization overview and goals, when a prior authorization applies, the benefits of a prior authorization, the oversight of prior authorizations, and information about state and federal legislative activity regarding prior authorizations.

General Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

An audio recording for the April 3, 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

April 3, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of April 3, 2025 SEB Board Meeting

Dave Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the April 3, 2025 Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.