

School Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025
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/school-employees-benefits-board-sebb-program/meetings-and-materials>

Members Present in Olympia

Lou McDermott
Dawna Hansen-Murray
Myra Johnson
Lara Christopherson
Alison Poulsen
Kerry Schaefer

Members Present via Zoom

Terri House
Omeid Heidari
Pamela Kruse (joined at approximately 10:05 a.m.)

Members Absent

None

SEB Board Counsel

Katy Hatfield
Genta Iwasaki

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.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Myra Johnson moved, and Dawna Hansen-Murray seconded a motion to approve the May 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Legislative and Budget Update

Cade Walker, Policy, Rules, and Compliance Section Manager in the ERB Division and **Tanya Deuel**, ERB Finance Section Manager in the Finance Services and Health 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, and the SEBB Program funding rates.

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.

- *SEBB 2025-01: Amending SEBB 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 5, 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 High Deductible 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 SEBB Program to address related claims currently being held by Regence.

- *SEBB 2025-02: Amending Resolution SEBB 2024-08 – UMP Diagnostic & Supplemental Breast Exam Coverage.* Dawna Hansen-Murray moved, and Myra Johnson seconded a motion to approve the resolution. The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote.

SEBB Program Collective Bargaining Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) Update

Kelsie Pele, Senior Account Manager in the ERB Division gave an update on the collective bargaining flexible spending arrangement benefit being added in the 2026 plan year. The update included a core benefit structure recap, an FSA employer contribution overview, information about the communications and operational implementation work plans regarding this benefit increase, and an FSA carryover reminder.

Benefits 24/7 Update

Brett Mello, Chief Information Officer in the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Division and **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.

General Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

An audio recording for the May 8, 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

June 5, 2025

Starting time 9:00 a.m.

Preview of June 5, 2025 SEB Board Meeting

David Iseminger, Director, Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB) Division, provided an overview of potential agenda topics for the June 5, 2025 Board 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 11:14 a.m. and concluded at 12:50 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.