



Meeting minutes | Health Care Policy Committee

Thursday, December 4, 2025 | 9:30 a.m.

202 Arbor Lake Dr., Columbia, SC 29223 | First Floor Conference Room

Minutes approved March 4, 2026

Board members present for all or a portion of the meeting: Mr. Steve Heisler, PEBA Board Chairman Joe “Rocky” Pearce, and Committee Chairman Alex Shissias.

Board members present for all or a portion of the meeting via virtual means: Mr. John Sowards

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting: Lee Allen, Peggy Boykin, Robby Brown, Phyllis Buie, Denise Hunter, Heather Kirby, Heather Muller, Laura Smoak, Rob Tester, Travis Turner, Justin Werner, Chuck Wilson, Justin Waites, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Jesse Epting and Carmen Wilson from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina; Bucky Greeley and Brian Tillotson from Novo Nordisk; Thomas Mullikin from The Mullikin Law Firm; and Sam Griswold from the State Retirees Association of South Carolina.

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting via virtual means: Jessica Moak from PEBA.

I. Call to order

Chairman Alex Shissias called the PEBA Health Care Policy Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and stated that the public meeting notice was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

II. Approval of meeting minutes – October 22, 2025

Mr. Steve Heisler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. John Sowards, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2025, Committee meeting as presented.

III. Open enrollment update

Ms. Phyllis Buie, Director of Insurance Operations, provided an open enrollment update. Ms. Buie discussed open enrollment changes for 2025 effective January 1, 2026, including health plans; dental plans; vision coverage; Optional Life and Dependent Life-Spouse coverage; MoneyPlus; Supplemental Long-Term Disability (SLTD) coverage; and the Health Savings Plan.

Ms. Buie reviewed notable enrollment trends and stated that there were 85,349 total transactions during the open enrollment period. Ms. Buie reported that there are 232,227 total subscribers, with 92.91 percent enrolled in the State Health Plan, 92.91 percent enrolled in Basic Dental, and 70.53 percent enrolled in Dental Plus.

Ms. Buie turned the discussion to Customer Contact Center statistics, and advised that the Customer Contact Center received 23,120 insurance calls during 2025's open enrollment, with a satisfaction rate of 99.96 percent. Ms. Buie also stated that there were 336 phone consultations, 216 video consultations, and 1,335 in-person consultations during 2025's open enrollment period.

IV. Value-based program update

Ms. Laura Smoak, Analytics and Health Initiatives Director, discussed PEBA's annual Health Initiatives and Value-Based Benefits report which quantifies the output and expense derived from the State Health Plan's (SHP) value-based benefits and health initiatives. This report now includes Plan outcomes and benchmarking in the national Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) performance measures.

Ms. Smoak discussed key highlights of the value-based program specifically addressing chronic conditions including the No-Pay Copay Program, Hello Heart, and Wondr Health, as well as behavioral health services including Meru Health, Bend Health and Equip, and a new provider group Headway, which will increase access to therapists and psychiatrists.

Ms. Smoak also addressed prevention and early detection services including worksite screening events, cancer screenings, vaccines, well child visits, dental and vision care, and maternal health.

Ms. Smoak reported that total plan expenditures for medical and prescription claims totaled \$3.927 billion in 2024, and Plan spending for value-based benefits and programs accounted for 3.0 percent of the total.

Ms. Smoak concluded by discussing 2024 prevalence rates of certain chronic conditions in the State Health Plan such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or a combination of these conditions.

V. Old business/Director's report

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, stated she would provide the Director's Report at the full Board meeting.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon a motion by Mr. Heisler, which was seconded by Chairman Shissias, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.