



Meeting minutes | Health Care Policy Committee

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.

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

Minutes approved August 5, 2026

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

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting: Lee Allen, Robby Brown, Amber Carter, Kevin Crosby, Denise Hunter, Heather Kirby, Heather Muller, Laura Smoak, Travis Turner, Justin Waites, and Justin Werner from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Dan Foster from CVS Caremark; Jesse Epting, Dylan Minney, Matt Shaffer, and Carmen Wilson from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina; Dr. David Louder from the Medical University of South Carolina; Richard Lomax from Novo Nordisk; Mark Stephens from BridgeBio; Thomas Mullikin from The Mullikin Law Firm; Mike Madalena, PEBA Consultant; Brad Burmeister and Jim DeMasters from Leo Pharma; and Rebecca Rochester from the State Retirees Association of South Carolina.

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

I. Call to order

Chairman Alex Shissias called the PEBA Health Care Policy Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and stated that the public meeting notice was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

II. Approval of meeting minutes – March 4, 2026

Mr. John Sowards made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Steve Heisler, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2026, Committee meeting as presented.

III. MUSC Plan update

In this annual review of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health Plan, Dr. David Louder, Executive Director of the MUSC Health Alliance, stated that the 2025 financial performance for the MUSC Health Plan shows a 5.3 percent unfavorable increase in the risk adjusted loss ratio performance between the MUSC Health Plan and the State Health Plan. Dr. Louder also presented the Plan’s 2025 quality metrics, addressed performance opportunities, and discussed the overall status of the MUSC plan.

Dr. Louder reviewed the growth of the MUSC Health Plan including the new Charleston Hollings Cancer network, and further integration with Tidelands Health in Georgetown and Horry counties. Dr. Louder concluded by discussing the recent acquisition of Palmetto Primary Care Physicians.

IV. New dental overview and strategy

Ms. Laura Smoak, Analytics & Health Initiatives Director, introduced Mr. Dylan Minney, Director of Dental Product and Sales at BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, to discuss dental coverage for PEBA's State Health Plan members and outline strategies that emphasize the connection between oral health and overall health.

Mr. Minney pointed out that 90 percent of all systematic diseases have oral manifestations, and receiving preventive oral care is one of the best methods for early detection of chronic diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, and strokes.

Mr. Minney provided a background of dental benefits for State Health Plan members, explained the difference in coverages between basic dental and dental plus, and discussed 2025 dental utilization and benchmarks for members.

Mr. Minney concluded by discussing strategic initiatives to increase dental care utilization and strengthening the connection between oral care and whole-body health.

V. Old business/Director's report

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, stated that 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. Sowards, which was seconded by Mr. Heisler, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.