



## Meeting Minutes | Health Care Policy Committee

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 | 10:15 a.m.

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

Minutes approved March 2, 2022

**Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Mr. Calvin Elam, Mr. Joe “Rocky” Pearce, Chairman, and Mr. Alex Shissias.

**Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Peggy Boykin, Robby Brown, Phyllis Buie, Sarah Corbett, Denise Hunter, James Manning, Heather Muller, Laura Smoak, Rob Tester, Travis Turner, Stephen Van Camp, Chuck Wilson, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Robin Scott and Ben Twilley from Express Scripts, Inc.; Brooks Goodman and Carmen Wilson from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

**Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Telephone:** Amber Carter, Jessica Moak, Angie Warren, and Justin Werner from PEBA; and JB Bethke and Gary Kline from Express scripts, Inc.

### I. Call to Order

Chairman Rocky Pearce called the PEBA Health Care Policy Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 10:15 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 6, 2021

Mr. Alex Shissias made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Calvin Elam, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2021, Committee meeting.

### III. National Legislative Outlook to Include Health Care/Pharmacy Issues

Mr. Gary Kline from Express Scripts’ Washington office discussed the various pieces of the Build Back Better Act (BBBA). Mr. Kline advised the Committee that the U.S. debt limit will need to be raised in order for the BBBA to pass Congress. Mr. Kline stated that the U.S. Senate is divided fifty percent Democratic and fifty percent Republican, with the Vice-President of the United States breaking the tie vote. Mr. Kline reported that the BBBA includes consideration of a number of health care provisions, including an initial prescription drug price negotiation policy; the expansion of Medicare benefits; Medicare Part D redesign; and COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Mr. Kline noted the potential impact on the State Health Plan if the BBBA passes Congress, as well as effects from other federal legislation. Mr. Kline also reported on matters affecting the Rebate Rule and group Medicare D plans.

Ben Twilley, ESI's local government relations contact, concluded the presentation by discussing potential pharmacy-related legislation at the state level, and noted upcoming important South Carolina Legislative dates.

**IV. Old Business/Director's Report**

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, reminded the Committee that PEBA has asked the General Assembly for approximately \$100 million to fund the State Health Plan to offset required 2024 premium increases, and approximately \$200 million to replenish the State Health Plan's cash reserve for the remainder of 2022.

**V. Adjournment**

There being no further business, and upon a motion by Mr. Shissias, which was seconded by Mr. Elam, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.