



## Meeting Minutes | Health Care Policy Committee

Thursday, October 1, 2020 | 9:30 a.m.

Via Zoom Conference

Minutes Approved December 1, 2020

**Board Members Present:** 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, Amber Carter, Sarah Corbett, Heather Muller, Laura Smoak, Rob Tester, Travis Turner, Stephen Van Camp, Angie Warren, Justin Werner, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA).

### I. Call to Order

Chairman Rocky Pearce called the PEBA Health Care Policy Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 9:31 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, 2020

It was noted that the March 4, 2020, Committee meeting minutes were approved as presented.

### III. Election of Committee Vice Chairman

Mr. Calvin Elam made a motion, which was seconded by Chairman Pearce, and passed unanimously, to nominate Mr. Alex Shissias as the Health Care Policy Committee Vice-Chairman.

### IV. Committee Charter Review

Mr. Shissias made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Elam, and passed unanimously, to approve the Health Care Policy Committee Charter as revised, and to recommend the revised Committee Charter to the full Board for approval.

### V. 2021 State Health Plan Approval of Benefits and Contributions

Mr. Rob Tester, Health Care Policy Director, advised that State Health Plan (SHP) employee and employer contribution rates for Plan Year 2021 will remain the same as in Plan Year 2020. In addition, copayments for participants of the SHP will also remain the same.

Mr. Tester stated that because Hospice is designated as an Essential Health Benefit in the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) regulatory framework, a dollar limit is no longer permissible. Therefore, it is proposed that the benefit be re-structured to have an 80 visit per lifetime limit, which has similar financial impact as the dollar limit and is permissible under the ACA.

Mr. Elam made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Shissias, and passed unanimously, to approve the 2021 State Health Plan benefits and contributions, as presented.

## **VI. Old Business/Director's Report**

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, stated that PEBA is operating under a Continuing Resolution that was passed by the General Assembly in March 2020. Ms. Boykin noted that although the General Assembly was in session for the past several weeks, they adjourned without adopting an annual appropriations budget. Ms. Boykin explained that PEBA had asked the General Assembly to suspend the sweep of the State Health Plan that would normally occur on January 31, 2020, to mitigate any higher medical claims that the State Health Plan may see next year due to COVID-19. Ms. Boykin reminded the Committee that PEBA collects premiums and contributions for the State Health Plan which are used to pay claims. At the end of each January, any monies that are left in the plan in excess of the reserve are swept into the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust fund, which cannot be reversed. Ms. Boykin stated that she has provided the General Assembly with a Joint Resolution to adopt as soon as they return in January 2021, that will allow PEBA to suspend the sweep of the State Health Plan.

Ms. Boykin also advised the Committee that PEBA does not have an accurate dollar amount of State Health Plan claims expenses for the end of the calendar year due to the possibility of additional COVID-19 claims. She reminded the Committee that normally at this meeting, they would approve a proposed funding budget for the State Health plan for the 2021-2022 state fiscal year, but suggested that discussions be postponed until December 2020, to provide accurate claims information.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, and upon motion by Mr. Elam, which was seconded by Mr. Shissias, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.