

**Joint ASE Advisory Commission and PSE Advisory Commission Minutes
August 5th, 2022**

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public School Employee Advisory Commissions met on Friday, August 5th, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

ASE Commission Members present:

Jerry Jones
Cynthia Dunlap
Ronda Walthall
Marty Casteel

ASE Members absent:

PSE Commission Members present:

Julie Bates
Kurt Knickrehm
Greg Rogers

PSE Members absent:

Jim Tucker

OTHERS PRESENT

Jessica Welch, Director Jake Bleed, Shalada Toles, Lauren Ballard, Denise Flake, Laura Thompson, EBD; Debbie Rogers, DFA; Takisha Sanders, Jessica Akins, Health Advantage; Dr. Jill Johnson, Oktawia DeYoung, EBRx; Sylvia Landers, Colonial Life; Matt Kersting, The Segal Group

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by ASE Chair, Cynthia Dunlap. To ensure; quorum a roll call was made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cynthia Dunlap made a request to approve the July 7th minutes. Kurt Knickrehm made the motion to approve. Julie Bates seconded; all were in favor.

Motion Approved.

1. **Review Q4 FY22 Quarterly Report: EBD Director, Jake Bleed**

Overview of the quarterly report EBD is required to submit to the Arkansas Legislative council, to provide updates on changes in the Plan per Act 113. The quarterly report includes PSE/ASE financial projections, information about the Medicare Advantage Plan with Prescription Drug that will begin operation January 1,2023, and EBD's Contracts and Procurement Gantt chart.

2. **Presentation of formulary-management process and recommendations for August 2022: EBRx, Dr. Jill Johnson**

Prior to Dr. Johnson's presentation EBD Director, Jake Bleed provided the commissioners with background information about the Formulary process.

Dr. Jill Johnson presented the Formulary Recommendations Report.

The commissioners requested Dr. Jill Johnson include more information about why the drugs presented should be excluded, covered, or covered with prior authorization at future meetings.

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to approve the recommendations as presented. Jerry Jones made a motion to approve. Kurt Knickrehm seconded; all were in favor.

Motion Approved.

3. Discussion of Actuary and EAP Procurements: EBD Director, Jake Bleed

1. Employee Assistance Program:

EAP provides counseling and helpful resources to ASE, PSE, and their household members. EBD requested approval to issue an RFP that offers EAP services and make the following changes:

-Seek proposals based on a variety of pricing models, including one based on strict utilization, and not limiting pricing to a PCPM/PMPM basis. Under this model, evaluators would determine the best possible options for EAP programs and the appropriate pricing structure.

-Allow online or virtual counseling. Current practices require in-person counseling, resulting in significant delays in access to services.

-Give broad leeway to vendors to propose solutions appropriate for a large, statewide organization.

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to approve the EAP Request For Proposal Request. Marty Casteel made a motion to approve. Julie Bates seconded; all were in favor.

Motion Approved.

2. Actuary:

EBD's Actuarial Firm, Milliman provides healthcare consulting, financial reporting, compliance, and assists EBD on a as needed basis.

EBD requested approval to issue an RFP for actuary services which would:

-Continue to provide direct actuarial services as well as healthcare consulting and other support

-Assist EBD in projecting the fiscal impact of new legislation, in compliance with Act of 112 of 2022

-Establish responsibilities for the actuary in responding to the needs of the advisory commissions and the State Board of Finance

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to approve the Actuary RFP request. Jerry Jones made a motion to approve. Marty Casteel seconded; all were in favor.

Motion Approved.

Other Business: EBD Director Jake Bleed

-The ASE and PSE rates that were discussed at the July 7th meeting were approved by Arkansas Legislative Council.

-The Medicare Advantage plan is being implemented. EBD's contractor United Health Care has been traveling the state and holding meetings to educate and assist the members with questions.

-EBD did have an RFP on a Pharmacy Benefit Manger contract; the RFP was not successful. EBD will work with the Segal Group hired by the Arkansas General Assembly to reissue the RFP.

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to adjourn. Ronda Walthall made a motion to adjourn. Julie Bates seconded.

Meeting adjourned.