

State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Advisory Commission Minutes

September 10, 2024

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m.

ASE Commission Members Present:

Cynthia Dunlap

Ronda Walthall

Jerry Jones

PSE Commission Members Present:

Greg Rogers

Billy Jackson

Julie Bates

Kurt Knickrehm

Others Present: Grant Wallace, Director of EBD; Jay Bir, EBD; Skochu Fields, EBD; Krista Grafe, EBD; Kimberly Duvall, EBD; Janella Deville, EBD; Jay Eickman, Navitus; Paul Sakhrani, Milliman; Sylvia Landers, Colonial Life; Sherry Bryant, EBRx; Trey Gardner, EBRx; Kristen Belew, EBRx; Ashley Boes, Marc Bagby, Lilly; Frances Bauman, Novo Nordisk; Takisha Sanders, ABCBS; Carl Carter, Jr., ABCBS; Jessica Akins, ABCBS; Cayce Raney, DFA; Phil Cummings, AbbVie; Stephen Carroll, AllCare Specialty; Harvie Nichols, Guy Fenter Educational Cooperative; Nima Nabavi, Amgen; Marissa Keith, Glenda Martin, Erika Gee, Nicholas Poole, Kristi Banks, Emilie Monk, Julia Weber, Cassandra Mendenhall, Debbie Rogers, Derrick Smith, and 5 others.

1. Call to Order

Cynthia Dunlap called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum for both the ASE and PSE Commissions.

2. Approval of August 13, 2024, Minutes, Cynthia Dunlap

Billy Jackson moved to approve the minutes from August 13, 2024, Regular Meeting, seconded by Kurt Knickrehm. **Motion Passed.**

3. Director's Update, Grant Wallace

Director Wallace started his update by commending the Customer Experience Team in EBD for handling the recent workload from the beginning of the school year. He mentioned the activity from the schools outpaced Open Enrollment from last year. He stated Open Enrollment for 2024 begins October 1 for active employees and on November 1 for retirees. And he mentioned the EBD Facebook page is one of the most reliable ways to get information from EBD and encourages people to like and share the page.

Director Wallace asked the Commission to move their November meeting to November 5, 2024, to accommodate the early State Board of Finance meeting. Dunlap asked if there was a

need for a vote and Director Wallace said as long as there is a quorum available, they can move forward with it and a vote is not necessary.

4. Contract Review, Director Wallace

The contract was with Health Advantage and is the last of the four one-year renewals which are allowed by state law. Director Wallace said the only change is the 4% increases from the current year. Dunlap asked if he was comfortable with those increases and Director Wallace said he was. Jerry Jones moved to accept the contract, seconded by Ronda Walthall. **Motion Passed.**

5. Formulary Review, Kristen Belew

Director Wallace introduced Jay Eichman, who is Employee Benefits Division's (EBD) new representative with Navitus. He said EBD has already had several meetings with Jay and his specific title is Senior Clinical Account Executive. Jay said he is excited to be brought into the fold and looks forward to working with EBD and the Commission.

Kristen Belew presented the Formulary and the following drugs were recommended for change:

- LIVMARLI® solution 19mg/ml and 9.5 mg/ml
- Liraglutide pen-injector
- Taltz® injection 20mg/0.25ml and 40mg/0.5ml
- ACTEMRA® SC injection and Actpen Injection
- TYENNE® injection
- OGSIVEO® tablets
- IWILFIN tablets
- ZILBRYSQ® injections
- Teriparatide injections

Julie Bates moved to approve the recommendations, seconded by Ronda Walthall. **Motion Passed.**

6. Other Business

Bates asked if there were updated financials and Director Wallace said he would get those out to the Commission.

Knickrehm asked about a new rule concerning pharmacy dispensing fees and minimum payments to pharmacies and what the potential cost impact to the plan might be. Director Wallace said he has seen several figures and the most recent version of the rule he had seen did not have figures worked into it. It makes it difficult for him to really see what the impact could be. He added any increase has not been budgeted in so it is something they would have to look at and see what impact could be and make changes accordingly. If generic drugs see a price

increase, anything under the \$15 copay on the Premium plan for example, would be absorbed 100% by the members since it is under the copay number. Those are things he is watching out for but reiterated the most current version of the rule had no dollar amounts attributed to it. Knickrehm confirmed there is no way to estimate the impact, and the impact could directly be on the employees. Director Wallace said that is a fair assessment of where things stand currently with this potential new rule, and he added he would keep the Commission updated on this issue.

Billy Jackson moved to adjourn. Greg Rogers seconded. Motion Passed and the Commission adjourned until October 8, 2024.