

**State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission
Minutes
September 6th, 2022**

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commissions met on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

ASE Commission Members present:

Marty Casteel
Jerry Jones
Cynthia Dunlap
Ronda Walthall
Bruce Maloch

ASE Members Absent:

PSE Commission Members present:

Julie Bates
Greg Rogers

PSE Members Absent:

Kurt Knickrehm
Jim Tucker

OTHERS PRESENT

Jessica Welch, Director Jake Bleed, Shalada Toles, Denise Flake, China Daulton, EBD; Oktawia DeYoung, EBRX; John Bridges, ASEA; Secretary Mitch Rouse, Lauren Ballard Transformation and Shared Services; Amy Fecher, Employees Retirement System; Larry Walther, Alan McVey, Department of Finance and Administration; Susannah Marshall, Arkansas State Bank Department; Dr. Samuel Bledsoe, Arkansas Heart Hospital

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by ASE Chair Cynthia Dunlap, and she announced there was quorum.

1. Approval of August 5th, 2022, Minutes: EBD Director, Jake Bleed

Cynthia Dunlap made a request to approve the August 5th minutes. Rhonda Walthall made the motion to approve. Jerry Jones seconded; all were in favor.

Motion Approved.

2. EBD Projects Update: EBD Director, Jake Bleed

Update on EAP RFP, Actuary RFP, Formulary recommendations, Medicare Advantage Plan, and Pharmacy Benefits Manager contract.

The Actuary RFP was adopted by the Arkansas Legislature. The EAP and Formulary recommendations were not approved.

EBD continues to work with the Medicare Advantage Plan vendor, United Health Care to educate retirees around the state about the plan and preparing for open enrollment in which retirees will the option to either enroll in the plan or to opt out.

The Arkansas Legislature approved the RFP for a Pharmacy Benefits Manager contract. EBD is currently working with the General Assembly and their contractor to ensure the best options for the state.

3. Bariatric Discussion and Policy Recommendation: EBD Director, Jake Bleed

Per Act 109 EBD is required to cover Bariatric Surgery effective January 2023. EBD is proposing an amendment to the Summary Plan Description to clarify the Bariatric Surgery Benefit prior to October 1, 2022.

The requirement of Bariatric Surgery is limited to surgery, the coverage will not be extended to pharmacy or weight loss drugs.

The Bariatric Surgery benefit will be limited to:

- Active state employees who have at least 5 years with the state.
- Employees who haven't previously had Bariatric Surgery
- One revision to a complication as a result from the surgery
- Surgeries performed at bariatric surgery centers which are accredited through the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program
- Prior authorization through surgeon or facility

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion for approval. Marty Casteel made the motion for approval. Jerry Jones Seconded; all were in favor.

Motion Approved.

4. Formulary Management Recommendations: Dr. Jill Johnson, EBRX

Dr. Jill Johnson presented the Formulary Recommendations Report.

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to approve the recommendations as presented. Julie Bates made the motion to approve. Rhonda Walthall seconded; all were in favor.

Motion Approved.

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to adjourn. Mary Casteel made the motion to adjourn. Jerry Jones seconded; all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned.