

**State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission  
Minutes  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commissions met on Tuesday, November 1st, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

**ASE Commission Members present:**

Marty Casteel  
Jerry Jones  
Cynthia Dunlap  
Ronda Walthall  
Bruce Maloch

**PSE Commission Members present:**

Julie Bates  
Greg Rogers  
Kurt Knickrehm  
Jim Tucker  
Billy Jackson

**ASE Members Absent:**

**PSE Members Absent:**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jessica Welch, Director Jake Bleed, China Daulton, EBD; Oktawia DeYoung, EBRX; Lauren Ballard Transformation and Shared Services; Debbie Rogers, Department of Finance and Administration; Takisha Sanders, Health Advantage; Judy Paslaski, MedImpact; Lori Bowen, Bureau of Legislative Research; Mary Grace Smith, Brenda K. Smith, LeAnn Perkins, Richelle Brittain

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**1. Approval of September 6th, 2022, Minutes: ASE Advisory Commission Chair, Cynthia Dunlap**

Cynthia Dunlap made a request to approve the September 6<sup>th</sup> minutes. Marty Casteel made the motion to approve. Jerry Jones seconded; all were in favor.

**Motion Approved.**

**2. Approval of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Minutes: ASE Advisory Commission Chair, Cynthia Dunlap**

Cynthia Dunlap made a request to approve the October 4<sup>th</sup> minutes. Julie Bates made a motion to approve. Bruce Maloch seconded; all were in favor.

**Motion Approved.**

**3. Quarterly Report: July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>: EBD Director, Jake Bleed**

Per Act 113, EBD is required to submit quarterly reports to the Arkansas Legislative Council to provide updates and changes in the plan.

The Quarterly Report includes the adoption of a policy for bariatric surgery pursuant to Act 109 of 2022, most-recent five-year projections as prepared by the EBD actuarial firm, Milliman, Inc., month-to-month tracking report for the quarter, year-to-date reporting, and an update on existing and anticipated contracting at EBD.

**4. American Rescue Plan Funding Request and Plan Impact: EBD Director Jake Bleed**

In March of 2022 EBD submitted a request to received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was provided by the federal government to help respond to COVID-19. EBD submitted the request due to the impact of COVID-19 on the plan. The Arkansas Legislative Council approved EBD's request October 2022.

**5. Updates: Medicare Advantage Plan and Procurements: EBD Director, Jake Bleed**

Director Bleed provided background knowledge on the Funding and Budget Processes for Arkansas State Employees and Public-School Employees, discussed the state budget process, dates, plan process, and proposed Budget/Financial Planning Schedule/ Strategy.

Director Bleed advised the Medicare Advantage Plan implementation is currently moving forward. November 1<sup>st</sup> was the first day members could start submitting opt out forms. EBD Currently has received over one thousand forms prior to the opt out period start date.

**6. Formulary Recommendations: Dr. Jill Johnson, EBRX**

Dr. Jill Johnson presented the Formulary Recommendations Report. Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to approve the recommendations as presented. Kurt Knickrehm made a motion to approve. Billy Jackson seconded; all were in favor.

**Motion Approved.**

Cynthia Dunlap requested a motion to adjourn. Billy Jackson made the motion to adjourn. Marty Casteel seconded.

Meeting adjourned.