

State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Advisory Commission Minutes

December 5, 2024

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was recorded and is available upon request through the Department of Transformation and Shared Services.

The following members were present:

ASE Commission Members Present:

Ronda Walthall

Marty Casteel

Bruce Maloch

Jerry Jones

Cynthia Dunlap

PSE Commission Members Present:

Julie Bates

Kurt Knickrehm

Billy Jackson

Others present were Grant Wallace, Director of Employee Benefits Division, and Amanda Land, Deputy Director of Employee Benefits Division. Also present were staff from the Employee Benefits Division, EBRx, Milliman, and Navitus Health Solutions.

Chairwoman Dunlap, seeing a quorum, called the meeting to order. Chairwoman Dunlap asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting on November 5, 2024. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Julie Bates and seconded by Jerry Jones. All members were in favor.

Chairwoman Dunlap then recognized Director Wallace for the Employee Benefits Division's (EBD) presentation. Director Wallace briefly commented on EBD's Open Enrollment and preparation for the General Assembly convening its regular session in 2025, including drafts of bills on which EBD had been working.

Director Wallace then presented a new contract for review to the Commissions. A motion was made by Billy Jackson to approve the contract between Catalize Health Solutions and EBD. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones. All members were in favor.

Chairwoman Dunlap next recognized Jay Eickman of Navitus Health Solutions to present the November Formulary Advisory Committee recommendations. A motion was made by Julie Bates to approve the pharmacy formulary recommendation, which was seconded by Ronda Walthall. All members were in favor.

Chairwoman Dunlap recognized Kristen Belew of EBRx to present the November Medical Formulary Review. A motion was made by Mr. Jones to approve the medical formulary recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Jackson. All members were in favor.

Chairwoman Dunlap recognized Paul Sakhrani and Greg Collins of Milliman to present a financial review of EBD. Mr. Sakhrani discussed the projections for the Arkansas State Employee plan, while Mr. Collins the Public-School Employee plan. Ms. Bates asked questions regarding the IBNR liability and pharmacy spend. Mr. Jackson asked regarding future funding mechanisms. Greg Rogers asked questions regarding adequacy funding and special Department of Education funding.

Seeing no other business to come before the Commissions, Chairwoman Dunlap stated a motion to adjourn would be entertained. Ms. Walthall moved to adjourn the meeting, with Mr. Jones having seconded. All members were in favor.