

State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Advisory Commission Minutes

April 8, 2025

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 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

Jerry Jones

Cynthia Dunlap

Marty Casteel

PSE Commission Members Present:

Billy Jackson

Julie Bates

Greg Rogers

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 March 11, 2025. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jerry Jones. All members were in favor.

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

Chairwoman Dunlap then invited Director Wallace to provide an update from the Employee Benefits Division (EBD). Director Wallace reported that, as the legislative session enters its final week, significant progress has been made on EBD impacted bills. Legislative updates will continue to be shared via email. He noted that the I.T. implementation and transition to the new program are progressing well, with the team currently engaged in in-depth analysis and discovery of specific program components. Director Wallace also mentioned that the phone system upgrade was successful and that the team is exploring additional enhancements made possible by the new software.

Additionally, he informed the group that Bill 1354 has been withdrawn and referred to interim study for further research, with the aim of facilitating more in-depth and productive discussions with the legislature. Regarding other pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) bills still in play, Director Wallace said the division is monitoring developments closely to assess potential impacts. He highlighted Bill 1150 as the next area of concern, noting that it remains uncertain, particularly due to its implications for specialty medications and its potential effects on UnitedHealthcare members and the Medicare Advantage plan.

Seeing no other business to come before the Commissions, Chairwoman Dunlap stated a motion to adjourn would be entertained, which was approved by Billy Jackson and seconded by Jerry Jones. All members were in favor.