

State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Advisory Commission Minutes

January 25, 2024

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission met for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

ASE Commission Members Present:

Ronda Walthall

Jerry Jones

Cynthia Dunlap

Bruce Maloch

PSE Commission Members Present:

Billy Jackson

Julie Bates

Greg Rogers

Others Present: Grant Wallace, Director of EBD; Amanda Land, Deputy Director of EBD; Jay Bir, EBD; Denise Flake, EBD; Cindy Monterroza, EBD; Krista Grafe, EBD; Kim DuVall, EBD; Skochu Fields, TSS; Sylvia Landers, Colonial Life; Trey Gardner, EBRx; Kristen Belew, EBRx; Jennifer Davis, DIS; Paul Sakhrani, Milliman; Dr. Jill Johnson, UAMS; Jake Goll, Navitus; Lori Bowen, BLR; Takisha Sanders, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Nima Nabavi, LeAnn Perkins, Julia Weber, Bill Clary, ARSEBA; John Brewer, Julie Marshall, Alix Stephens, Stephen Carroll, Debbie Rogers, John Bridges, ASEA; Sidney Keisner, Amanda Story, Lucas Hargraves, Marissa Keith, Emilie Monk, Erika Gee, Frances Bauman, David Chance, Debra Wolfe, Kevin Carr, Heinz Braun, Donna Morey, Derrick Smith, and 7 others.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Cynthia Dunlap and announced there was a quorum for the PSE and ASE Commissions.

2. Voluntary Rules: Grant Wallace

Director Wallace thanked the Commission for attending today and said they did not get the rules being proposed back from the Governor's Office in time to add them to the agenda of the regularly scheduled meeting and needed to call this special meeting in order to get the rules before the State Board of Finance.

Director Wallace mentioned Act 533 of the 2023 Session which designated the Arkansas State Employees Benefits Advisors (ARSEBA) would be the vendor to manage voluntary products like dental, vision, cancer policies and additional life insurance policies for state employees. He emphasized this is not impacting the public schools in any way. The Act also allows the Director of EBD to promulgate rules to enforce the act. The core of these rules is how that relationship will work, but more so the promulgation and procurement processes will work for the various products. He said these are unique products in the industry and they need to be viewed

through that type of lens but the goal needs to be for them to go through the procurement process, there is competitive bidding, and these are done on a regular schedule.

Cynthia Dunlap asked if this only involved State Employees does the vote only need to be from the ASE portion of the Commission. Director Wallace said he would like it to be the whole Commission just to be safe.

Jerry Jones moved to approve the rules, seconded by Billy Jackson. **Motion Passed.**

3. Medical Prescription Drugs: Kristen Belew

This item was discussed but then tabled for further discussion and approval.

4. Other Business

Jackson asked about the Commissions' tax forms and how to obtain them. Director Wallace said an email should have gone out with those instructions but will make sure it does go out again. But if any Commission member has any questions he said to reach out to him and he can assist in any way possible.

Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting and without objection Chairwoman Dunlap adjourned the meeting until February 13, 2024.