



City of Bellevue

Human Resources Department

Date: **July 5, 2017**
To: **LEOFF 1 Disability Board members**
From: **Paula Dillon x 7198, Human Resources**
RE: **Tuesday, July 11, 2017, Regular Meeting**

Please review the attached Agenda packet for the upcoming LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. The meeting will be held in Room 1E-118.

Attachments

Distribution List

Disability Board Members:

Susan Neiman, Chair
Lynne Robinson, Councilmember
Ernie Simas, Councilmember
Wayne Bergeron, Fire Department
Bryan Reil, Police Department

Other Copies:

Siona Windsor, City Attorney's Office
Kerry Sievers/Julie Howe, Human Resources
Paula Dillon, Human Resources
Sandra Nunnelee, Council Coordinator
Michelle Luce, Council Coordinator
Mark Risen, Fire Department
Steve Mylett, Police Department
Michelle Cash, Minutes taker – without attachments



City of Bellevue

Disability Board

Agenda Regular Meeting City Hall, Conference Room 1E-118

Date: **Tuesday, July 11, 2017**

Time: **5:30 pm Administrative Meeting**
6:00 pm Business Meeting

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comment

IV. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 2, 2017

V. Consideration of Applications for Disability Allowances

A. Applications for Disability Allowances
1) Fire Department

B. Applications for Disability Allowances Greater than 1 month
1) Fire Department

VII. Consideration of Medical Claims

A. Routine claims
B. Special claims
C. Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims

VI. Staff Reports

VII. New Business

XI. Unfinished Business

X. Announce Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday, August 1, 2017

XI. Adjournment

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
LEOFF 1 DISABILITY BOARD
Meeting Minutes**

May 2, 2017
5:30 p.m. – Administration
6:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

Conference Room 1E-120
Bellevue City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Susan Neiman
Boardmember Wayne Bergeron
Boardmember Bryan Reil
Councilmember Lynne Robinson¹
Councilmember Ernie Simas

OTHERS PRESENT: Paula Dillon, Human Resources
Siona Windsor, City Attorney's Office

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Neiman.

II. ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member #92 requested reconsideration of his medical claim from May 3, 2016 for stem cell therapy. The Member explained that he does not want to have a hip replacement but may eventually need it to deal with his advanced condition. He has tried pain medications, which did not work. Member #92 noted that some of the pain medications have high risk factors such as addiction, risk of heart attack, damage to cartilage or other medical complications.

Member #92 provided a written response to a letter he received from staff, dated April 19, 2017.

Member #92 explained that he chose stem cell therapy because it was a better choice for him because it is safer, less expensive, and allowed the Member the option, if needed, to have hip replacement surgery. He noted that the procedure is FDA approved using the Member's own body's stem cells. The Member has found no evidence that stem cell therapy would be bad for him. However, he acknowledged that there is not a lot of study on using one's own stem cells to

¹ Arrived at 6:22 p.m.

address arthritis of the hip. Member #92 suggested that this may be because it could replace a more costly hip replacement procedure which is generating huge costs to the health care industry.

Member #92 noted that his results from stem cell therapy have been good enough that he currently does not need hip replacement surgery and his condition has improved 100 percent over what it was before the treatment. This has happened over a period of one year.

Member #92 is scheduled to have a MRI next week to evaluate his current condition of his arthritic right hip. He offered to forward these results to Boardmembers, if desired.

Chair Neiman inquired if Member #92 considered steroid or other anti-inflammatory injections. Member #92 responded “no” because these types of injections typically break down cartilage. He didn’t want to deteriorate any cartilage because it would make the stem cell therapy less effective.

Councilmember Simas inquired if the platelet-rich plasma (PRP) procedure, noted in the documentation, was conducted once or multiple times. Member #92 responded that the PRP was part of the stem cell therapy as a process enhancement.

Councilmember Simas inquired what Member #92’s physician recommends if the stem cell therapy is not successful. Member #92 responded that the doctors will most likely recommend a hip replacement. However, Member #92 currently feels about 70 percent better than pre-stem cell therapy. He noted that he has been tracking his pain levels since pre-stem cell therapy and is encouraged by the results.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Boardmember Reil and second by Boardmember Bergeron to approve the April 5, 2017 LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

V. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCES

A. Applications for Disability Allowances

Motion by Boardmember Bergeron and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the Applications for Disability Allowances as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

B. Applications for Disability Allowances Greater than 1 month

None.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CLAIMS

A. Routine Claims

Motion by Boardmember Bergeron and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the Routine Claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

B. Special Claims

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Bergeron to approve Member #95's Special Claim as presented.

Councilmember Robinson questioned if Medicare was billed for Member #95's claim. In addition, Councilmember Simas inquired why the service provider does not provide partial monthly rates. Boardmembers suggested that the claim be submitted to Medicare for consideration.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to postpone a decision on Member #95's claim until the claim has been processed through Medicare.

Motion by Boardmember Bergeron and second by Councilmember Robinson to approve Member #58's Special Claims as presented.

Boardmembers discussed Member #58's claims for massage therapy and psychiatric counseling sessions. Boardmembers expressed concern that the Member's psychiatrist prescribed the massage therapy with no formal prognosis or diagnosis from a physician specializing in back-related issues. In addition, the number of massage therapy sessions requested for reimbursement is above the allowable limit. Ms. Windsor explained that under Premera's guidelines, massage therapy needs to be "medically necessary."

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve Member #58's claim for psychiatric counseling sessions; and postpone a decision on Member #58's claim for massage therapy. Boardmembers requested that Member #58 provide documentation from his psychiatrist regarding the Member's diagnosis and prognosis for psychiatric care; and a detailed evaluation and plan of care for Member #58's diagnosis of lower back pain for the purpose of determining medical necessity of massage therapy.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Bergeron to approve Member #98's Special Claim as presented.

Councilmember Robinson questioned if Medicare was billed for Member #98's claim. Staff will research the claim and call the Member's insurance carrier.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to postpone a decision on Member #98's claim until the claim has been processed through Medicare.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Bergeron to approve reconsideration of Member #92's claim for stem cell therapy. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Chair Neiman disclosed that Member #92's stem cell therapy physician is a patient of Chair Neiman's husband (Dr. Richard Neiman), who is a Rheumatologist. Chair Neiman clarified that at no time has either party (Dr. Neiman or Member #92's stem cell therapy physician) discussed the care or treatment of Member #92.

If it is the policy of the Board not to cover experimental/investigational claims then Councilmember Simas recommended that the Board's decision to deny Member #92's claim be reaffirmed.

Boardmember Bergeron discussed experimental/investigational claims that the Board has approved in the past. These included claims where the Member had exhausted all recommended treatment options.

If Member #92 demonstrates improvement from the stem cell therapy, Boardmembers discussed whether or not they would reconsider Member #92's claim. After a brief discussion, they concurred that stem cell therapy is an experimental/investigational option and should not be approved as a primary treatment option.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Bergeron to reaffirm the Board's decision to deny approval of Member #92's claim for stem cell therapy. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Reil to approve Member #27's Special Claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Motion by Boardmember Bergeron and second by Councilmember Robinson to approve Member #96's Special Claim as presented.

Boardmembers discussed Member #96's claim for a wireless system to connect his hearing aids to the television. Since this is not a medically necessary device and other options are available (television closed captioning), Boardmembers suggested that the claim be denied.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to deny Member #96's claim.

C. Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims

The pre-approved recurring long-term care claims were reviewed and included in the Board packet.

VII. STAFF REPORT

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ANNOUNCE DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Disability Board meeting will be held on June 6, 2017.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.