

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

January 7, 2026

via Hybrid Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Susan Neiman
Boardmember Mike Crosby
Boardmember Bryan Reil
Councilmember Lynne Robinson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathleen Kline, City Attorney's Office
Michelle Robinson, Human Resources
Steve Treperinas, Human Resources

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Neiman.

II. ROLL CALL:

A quorum was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Reil and second by Councilmember Robinson to approve the November 25, 2025 LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

V. MEETING CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CLAIMS:

A. Routine Claim

None.

B. Special Claim

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #139. This claim was for a requested reimbursement in the amount of \$311.88 for a dental examination and cleaning. Boardmembers discussed the nature of the claim and confirmed that the dental treatment was directly related to a pre-existing medical condition originating from cancer treatment, which had previously required extensive dental and oral care. Staff noted that this member has an ongoing, previously approved claim history related to this condition. Boardmembers confirmed that although dental services are not typically covered, this claim qualified due to its medical origin rather than routine dental care.

Motion by Boardmember Reil and second by Councilmember Robinson to approve the Special Claim for Member #139 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #58 to reimbursement in the amount of \$37.14 for a prescribed medication, identified as Flonase, which has been approved by the Board on an ongoing basis in prior years. Boardmembers discussed whether similar over-the-counter medications would be eligible for reimbursement and clarified that coverage applies only when such medications are formally prescribed. Staff confirmed that this medication was prescribed and that the claim met eligibility requirements.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Crosby to approve the Special Claim for Member #58 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

C. Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims

Boardmembers reviewed the long-term care claims included in the Board packet.

VI. STAFF REPORT:

A. Overview of 2026 health benefit changes

Michelle Robinson, Human Resources, presented a comprehensive report on 2026 health benefit changes affecting retirees, focusing on updates to Premera Blue Cross and Kaiser Permanente plans. For Premera members, staff reported that the dollar cap on hearing aid coverage has been removed while retaining the limit of one hearing aid per ear every 36 months, consistent with recent state-level changes. Additional updates included expanded virtual care programs, a new cancer support service, and increased flexibility in prescription refill options. Kaiser Permanente updates included the introduction of prescription drug copays under its Medicare Advantage

plan, continuation of a \$1,500 annual hearing aid allowance, and changes to emergency room copays, with reimbursement eligibility through the Disability Board for qualifying expenses.

Boardmembers discussed whether its internal policy language regarding hearing aid coverage should be updated to reflect insurance changes and agreed that staff would prepare proposed revisions for future consideration.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Results of election for Police and Firefighter Representatives

Mr. Treperinas confirmed reappointment of Boardmember Reil as the Board Police Representative and Mike Crosby as Board Fire Representative following the annual election process.

B. Public Participation Rules

Boardmembers reviewed proposed public participation rules consistent with other Council-created boards, and the Board elected to defer adoption until the February meeting to allow additional review.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

IX. ANNOUNCE DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting will be held on February 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.