CITY OF BELLEVUE
LEOFF 1 DISABILITY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2026 *via Hybrid Meeting*

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Naren Briar
Boardmember Mike Crosby
Boardmember Bryan Reil
Councilmember Lynne Robinson

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathleen Kline, City Attorney's Office
Steve Treperinas, Human Resources
Alex Tsimmerman, Public Comment

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Boardmember Reil.

II. ROLL CALL:

A quorum was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alex Tsimmerman

Mr. Tsimmerman spoke critically about Councilmember Robinson and the City of Bellevue. Comments included allegations that he had been unfairly treated, retaliated against, and restricted from participating in public meetings. He claimed that his access and speech rights had been limited and made numerous accusations against City officials regarding their actions toward him.

Much of Mr. Tsimmerman's Public Comments consisted of personal grievances related to prior interactions with the City, Bellevue City Council, law enforcement, and public meeting procedures. He alleged misconduct by public officials, criticized reductions in public comment opportunities, and repeatedly used inflammatory and derogatory language when referring to Councilmember Robinson. He also made broader claims about government conduct and free speech, though he did not present evidence or discuss any matter within the Disability Board's jurisdiction.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Crosby and second Councilmember Briar to approve the April 1, 2026 LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

V. MEETING CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CLAIMS:

A. Routine/Special Claims

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #44 for hearing aid batteries. The claim was presented and reviewed without significant discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Councilmember Briar to approve the Special Claim for Member #44 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (3-0; Boardmember Crosby abstained from the vote).

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #44 for Kaiser co-payments. Staff explained that the claim consisted of routine co-payments from Kaiser. The claim was straightforward and did not generate significant discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Councilmember Briar to approve the Special Claim for Member #44 as presented. (3-0; Boardmember Crosby abstained from the vote).

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #130 for cabulance transportation. Discussion focused on whether there were reasonable alternatives to the transportation service. It was explained that the Member had recently undergone multiple surgeries, was wheelchair-bound, and required transportation from the hospital to a rehabilitation facility. Boardmembers agreed that the transportation was medically necessary and that the cost was reasonable.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Crosby to approve the Special Claim for Member #130 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #99 for treatment related to an abscess and root canal. Discussion centered on whether the treatment should be considered medically necessary rather than routine dental care. Boardmembers noted that the claim resulted from an infection that could affect the Member's overall health if left untreated.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Crosby to approve the Special Claim for Member #99 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #139 for an exam, X-rays, and cleaning. Mr. Treperinas explained the claim and provided background regarding the Member's ongoing dental issues associated with prior cancer treatment. Boardmembers noted that similar claims had been approved in the past as part of the Member's continuing medically related dental care.

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

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #139 for an evaluation and root canal. Discussion focused on the higher cost of the procedure compared to another root canal claim reviewed earlier in the meeting. Boardmembers reviewed the itemized charges and discussed factors affecting cost, including additional diagnostic services and the Member's medical history. Mr. Treperinas explained that the claim included X-rays and other related services in addition to the root canal treatment.

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

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #6 for an admission fee to a long-term care facility. Staff explained that the Member had been hospitalized and was unable to return to the previous facility due to increasing care needs. Boardmembers discussed the circumstances surrounding the move and agreed that the admission was medically necessary.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Councilmember Briar to approve the Special Claim for Member #6 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #6 for long-term care rent. Discussion focused on whether the Member's placement should be classified as assisted living or memory care and how that classification affected reimbursement. Boardmembers noted that the monthly charge exceeded the Board's reimbursement limit of $9,080 by approximately $420. After reviewing the policy and discussing the facility's services, the Board approved reimbursement subject to the established limit. The Board also agreed that future claims for this Member's long-term care expenses would move to the pre-approved recurring claims process.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Councilmember Briar to approve the Special Claim for Member #6 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

B. <u>Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims</u>

The recurring long-term care claims were included in the Board packet.

VI. STAFF REPORT:

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Citizen at Large – Open position

Boardmembers discussed the applicant pool for the vacant Boardmember position previously held by Susan Neiman. Several members expressed concern that the current application process and applicant pool did not adequately reflect the specialized nature of the Disability Board's work. Boardmembers noted that the Board's primary function is to review medical claims and apply the requirements of state law, rather than develop policy or engage in broader advisory board functions.

Boardmembers discussed the value of recruiting applicants with legal or medical experience, while acknowledging that such experience should be preferred but not required. Several members noted that an understanding of medical issues and the applicable RCW governing Disability Boards would be beneficial when evaluating claims. There was also discussion that the standard City board and commission application may not accurately reflect the unique responsibilities of the Disability Board and could create the impression that the position involves policy-making responsibilities.

Boardmembers expressed interest in expanding outreach efforts to attract additional qualified applicants. Suggestions included using the City's community outreach channels, social media platforms, and other methods to increase awareness of the vacancy among Bellevue residents. Boardmembers also discussed revising the recruitment materials to better describe the Board's responsibilities and to highlight that legal or medical experience would be helpful.

Following discussion, the Board reached consensus to reopen the recruitment process, revise the vacancy announcement, and solicit additional applications. Staff was directed to update the recruitment materials to better describe the Board's role and to include language indicating that legal or medical experience is desirable. Staff was also directed to provide current applicants an opportunity to respond to any additional questions developed as part of the revised recruitment process. No appointments were made at this meeting.

IX. ANNOUNCE DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

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

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.