

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

October 1, 2025

via Hybrid Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Susan Neiman
Boardmember Mike Crosby¹
Boardmember Bryan Reil
Mayor Lynne Robinson
Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya

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 Chair Neiman.

II. ROLL CALL:

A quorum was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alex Tsimmerman addressed the Board with strong frustration, criticizing the lack of meetings between May and September and objecting to interruptions while speaking. He referenced a prior incident, alleged that new rules were unfairly tied to his support for Donald Trump, and questioned leadership roles within the council. He accused the Board of ignoring his concerns, linked opposition to Trump with high gas prices, and called for a “new revolution,” also mentioning political unrest in Belgium. His time expired and he made a brief outburst.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Reil and second by Mayor Robinson to approve the May 7, 2025 LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Motion by Boardmember Reil and second by Mayor Robinson to approve the June 4, 2025 LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

V. MEETING CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CLAIMS:

A. Routine Claim

None.

B. Special Claim

Boardmembers reviewed the Special Claim for Member #139. This claim was from a Member who, due to radiation therapy on his mouth and throat, had been advised by his physician to receive dental cleanings three times a year. The claim for \$193.20 was for a regular cleaning that had been denied by the insurance provider, Premera. It was noted that Boardmembers had approved identical claims for this individual in the past.

During the discussion of the claim, a Boardmember raised a procedural question. While supporting the approval, she questioned why Premera consistently denies the claim, even though the need for the dental work is a direct result of a medical treatment. She suggested that this issue should be investigated by the Human Resources benefits team and potentially raised during contract renegotiations with Premera, as it seems logical for the expense to be covered because of the medical procedure. Another member explained that Premera likely views it strictly as a dental service, which they do not cover, and is unwilling to consider the broader context. It was clarified that while Premera offers dental insurance, the city does not have that specific coverage.

Motion by Mayor Robinson and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the Special Claim for Member #139. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

C. Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims

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

VI. STAFF REPORT:

No report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Robinson requested that staff draft a Public Comment ordinance, consistent with the City's ordinance, for the LEOFF 1 Disability Board, to include a formal process for issuing a warning and a citation if a speaker continues talking after their time has expired. Furthermore,

she suggested looking into whether the commenter's behavior violates the facilities' conduct rules.

Another item of new business concerned the long-term care cost-of-care rates from Genworth, which are reviewed annually in October/November. Mr. Treperinas noted that these rates can fluctuate and have occasionally decreased. He asked Boardmembers for guidance on whether a retiree's benefits should be reduced if the official rates for their region go down after their benefits have already been established. Boardmembers unanimously agreed that benefits for retirees already in the system should not be lowered. The consensus was that the rate should be locked in at the time a claim is first approved, utilizing the annual rates established each October/November. It was clarified that the upcoming rate notification applies to the Seattle region for the year, while claims from other regions are assessed using the rates specific to that location at that time.

The discussion then turned to the increasing issue of retirees using out-of-network healthcare providers. An example was given of a retiree who paid over \$4,000 out-of-pocket for hearing aids from an out-of-network provider who refused to bill Premera directly. This creates a complicated reimbursement process for the retiree. Boardmembers recognized the need to better educate members on the financial risks of going out-of-network when an in-network option is available.

Finally, Boardmembers addressed a complex situation involving a retiree being cared for at home. The retiree's grandson reported that the caregiver, while licensed, is not affiliated with an agency and is therefore unable to submit claims to Medicare or Premera. The grandson asked if Boardmembers could make an exception and provide reimbursement directly. Boardmembers determined that this was a family management issue and outside their purview. The system is designed for claims to be processed through established agencies that are set up to bill insurers. Boardmembers suggested two viable solutions: either the family could find a caregiver through an agency like Visiting Angels, or the current caregiver could seek employment with such an agency, which would then handle the billing. Mr. Treperinas will convey this information to the grandson.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

IX. ANNOUNCE DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting will be held on November 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the LEOFF 1 Disability Board.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.