

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

June 3, 2009  
5:30 p.m. – Administration  
6:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

Conference Room 1E-118  
Bellevue City Hall

**MEMBERS PRESENT**            Chairperson Susan Neiman  
   Boardmember Wayne Bergeron  
   Councilmember Conrad Lee  
   Boardmember Bryan Reil

**MEMBERS ABSENT**            Councilmember John Chelminiak

**OTHERS PRESENT:**            Paula Dillon, Human Resources  
   Siona Windsor, Legal Advisor

**MINUTES TAKER:**            Michelle Cash

**I.      CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Neiman.

**II.     ROLL CALL**

**III.    APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by Boardmember Bergeron and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the May 6, 2009 Disability Board Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).**

Approval of the April 1, 2009 meeting minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum for the meeting minutes.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCES**

##### **A. Applications for Disability Allowances**

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

##### **B. Applications for Disability Allowances Greater than 1 month**

None.

#### **V. CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CLAIMS**

##### **A. Routine Claims**

**Motion by Boardmember Reil and second by Boardmember Bergeron to approve the Routine Claims as presented.**

Councilmember Lee called attention to the documentation included in the packet regarding Member #100's claim. He explained that the claim was denied by Premera because it was submitted 15 days prior to the specified time period. However, there was documentation from the Member stating the Member was present when Premera was called to confirm the claim guidelines for submission. Premera confirmed that the Member was within the proper timeframe. However, this information was incorrect.

Boardmembers discussed a previous claim that was submitted five days prior to the specified time period. The difference between this claim and Member #100's claim was that Member #100 contacted Premera to confirm the time requirements. The other Member did not.

Boardmember Bergeron suggested that there should be exceptions and/or more flexibility to the time windows, while Councilmember Lee felt that the entity making the error should bear the financial responsibility.

Boardmember Reil remarked that the policies are set for a reason and should be followed. Ms. Windsor commented that exceptions should be considered. However, she cautioned that making exceptions loses effectiveness of the rule.

Based upon the documentation provided, Boardmembers concurred that Member #100 was misinformed by Premera.

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (4-0) to approve the Routine Claims as presented.**

B. Special Claims

**Motion by Boardmember Reil and second by Councilmember Lee to approve the Special Claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).**

**VI. REPORTS BY STAFF**

Ms. Windsor informed Boardmembers that Member #33, a former Police matron covered by LEOFF, passed away on May 20, 2009. Member #33 had submitted a claim for 1991-2003 medical related expenses. However, Ms. Windsor explained that the claim was denied because it was outside of the Statute of Limitations.

On June 1, 2009, the Board was sent a letter stating that the attorney representing Member #33 wished to dismiss the case. Ms. Windsor explained that there are some administrative details that need to be clarified before the case is dismissed. She added that nursing home expenses were covered for Member #33 from 2004 until death. In addition, \$257,000 was paid out for retroactive nursing home expenses.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ms. Dillon discussed the policies set forth for out-of-network claims. Currently, Premera's language notes that if a Member is out-of-state or in a rural area, and does not have access to an in-network provider, Premera will cover the claim at the in-network cost.

Boardmembers reviewed the Orthopedic Physician Directory, included in the Board packet, that listed the Premera in-network orthopedic related physicians. Within the Eastside area, there were 11 physicians on the list that specified privileges at Evergreen and/or Overlake Hospital.

Chair Neiman suggested that members should use Premera physicians or pay the cost difference of a claim if they choose to use an out-of-network physician.

Boardmember Bergeron expressed concern with limiting members to a small number of available physicians. He also suggested that any policy changes be made with generous lead times and multiple notifications to ensure members are well informed.

Boardmembers discussed the WSLEA Board Policy Comparison list provided in the Board packet. Most Disability Boards do not have a preferred provider list.

Boardmembers directed staff to prepare a draft policy addressing the following items:

- Members have an option to go in-network and receive comparable services.
- The Board will reimburse the contract rate that a network provider would be paid.
- The policy will be effective January 1, 2010.
- The Board may consider an exception to the policy under extraordinary circumstances.

Boardmembers discussed compelling reasons for exceptions to the policies. Councilmember Lee asked staff to poll some of the other cities to see if there are further compelling reason examples.

#### **IX. ANNOUNCE DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Disability Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.