



Meeting Minutes | Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, June 5, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

202 Arbor Lake Dr., Columbia, SC 29223 | First Floor Conference Room

Minutes Approved August 21, 2025

Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: Ms. Amanda Blankenship, Mr. Calvin Elam, Mr. Steve Heisler, Mr. Steve Matthews, Chairman Joe “Rocky” Pearce, Mr. Alex Shissias, and Mr. Ed Walton.

Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Virtual Means: Ms. Jennifer Blumenthal, Sheriff Steve Mueller, and Mr. John Sowards.

Board Members Absent: Ms. Paige Lewis

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: Lee Allen, Peggy Boykin, Robby Brown, Amber Carter, Heather Muller, Heather Kirby, Laura Smoak, Rob Tester, Katie Turner, Travis Turner, Justin Werner, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); and Noah Barker from The Mullikin Law Firm.

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Virtual Means: Angie Warren from PEBA

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rocky Pearce called the PEBA Board of Director’s (Board) meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and stated that the public meeting notice was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes- March 12, 2025

Mr. Ed Walton made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Calvin Elam, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2025, Board meeting.

III. 2026 State Health Plan Approval of Benefits and Contributions

Mr. Rob Tester, Insurance Policy Director, advised that State Health Plan (SHP) employer contribution rates for Plan Year 2026 will increase 4.6 percent. Employee contribution rates for participants of the SHP will remain the same as in Plan Year 2025. It was noted that employer rate changes for 2026 conform to the funding in the Annual Appropriations Bill.

Mr. Tester reported that Outpatient Hospital services are the largest cost driver among medical care settings in the State Health Plan, with surgery being the largest component. Many surgeries that are performed in an Outpatient Hospital setting may also be performed in an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) at a lower cost. Mr. Tester advised that the SHP is exploring bundled payment rates with ASCs for selected surgeries, including knee and hip replacements, knee and hip arthroscopic surgery,

rotator cuff repair and carpal tunnel repair. This set price for facility and professional services associated with these procedures is intended to control the provision of ancillary services associated with the surgery as well as obtaining better unit pricing. It is proposed that a \$100 patient copay be authorized for all services associated with these surgeries at an ASC as a patient incentive to seek these services in this setting rather than utilizing Outpatient Hospital services. Mr. Tester noted that this action is contingent on the Plan's ability to execute favorable contracts with ASCs with bundled pricing terms and would become effective January 1, 2026.

Mr. Steve Heisler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Steve Matthews, and passed unanimously, to recommend that the PEBA Board approve the State Health Plan Benefits and Contributions for Plan Year 2026 as presented.

IV. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Contractual Matters and Receiving Legal Advice Pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws § 30-4-70(a)(2)

At 10:37 a.m., Mr. Elam made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Matthews and passed unanimously, to recede into executive session to discuss contractual matters and receive legal advice.

At 11:19 a.m., the meeting reconvened in open session. Chairman Pearce announced that no action was taken by the Board while in executive session.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon a motion by Mr. Heisler, which was seconded by Mr. Elam, and approved unanimously, the Board meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.