

CALIF^{OR}NIA STATE RETIREES

Health Benefits Committee Meeting

January 31, 2023
10:10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Embassy Suites
3663 E. Guasti Road, Ontario

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Salute to our flag

C. Roll Call:

Larry Woodson, Chair
Tom Considine, Vice Chair
Elaine Edwards-Yahraus
Jenny Hayden – excused
Dr. John Gilman
Dr. Mark Hynum
Joe Reynoso
Vincent Herrera, District D, Board Liaison

D. New Business

1. Long-term care (LTC) policy updates – Elaine gave an overview of the latest developments on the LTC program including premium increases and options, and status of the LTC class action lawsuit.
2. AB 1130 – Tom gave a presentation on the newly established Office of Health Care Affordability created by AB 1130 and signed into law. They are in the process of selecting Board members and establishing staffing. They will also create an advisory committee which CSR may apply to participate

in. The early stages will be data gathering and coordination with other programs involved in health care.

3. Dr. Gilman reported on a recent discovery our HBC made when one of our members received a large bill after going to his hospital ER and being admitted. It turned out if members are not admitted right away, they may be placed in “observation care” which is not covered by insurance or Medicare. He also reported on the federal legislation that puts caps on insulin costs and copays.
4. Larry gave an update on our continued opposition to ACO REACH and our efforts to get CalPERS to oppose it as well. He also reported on the CalPERS Board Education Day Panel Discussion on REACH. Liz Fowler, Director of the Center for Innovation at CMS was the featured presenter in favor. Larry had arranged for Dr. Jim Kahn to be a panel member in opposition. He reported that many stakeholder groups gave public comment against ACO REACH, but the meeting was adjourned with no Board action or commitment to discuss further.
5. Larry also gave a presentation on the Medicare Part B Premiums which are taken out of our Social Security monthly checks or deposits and then reimbursed by CalPERS in our pension checks. However, for members whose income exceeds a threshold level they have to pay a higher premium and take a number of steps in submitting information to CalPERS in order to get a higher reimbursement.
6. Joe gave a status update on Dental and Vision expected rates for 2023 and the many complaints we are getting from our members about Delta Dental. We are trying to schedule a meeting with the Director of CalHR to discuss Delta Dental shortcomings.
7. Dr. Hynum spoke about the ongoing problem of physician shortages and wait times. He also spoke about Veterans issues in Jenny’s absence. He highlighted legislation that greatly expands veterans’ eligibility for illness due to burn pit exposures.
8. There were questions and discussion from the audience which Tom facilitated. Due to Zoom failures, Larry was unable to participate in the last 20 minutes. Tom adjourned the meeting.

E. Added Items

None

F. Adjournment

Vice Chair Tom Considine adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Woodson, Committee Chair