

Date: July 14, 2017

Location: William B. Travis (WBT) Bldg, Conference Room 1-104, first floor

Presenters: Ray Hymel, Texas Public Employees Association – Legislative Updates
Kathryn Tesar, ERS – Benefit updates
Jackie Gillespie, BlueCross BlueShield of Texas – New Plan Administrator 9/1/17

Attendees: All officers of the Association: Catherine Camp, Chair; Tracie Reyher; Vice-Chair; Suzanne Retiz, Secretary; Alma Craig, Treasurer; and 29 representatives from 19 state agencies

Call to Order

Catherine Camp gave a brief overview of the morning's agenda items, including ballot distributions for the FY 2018 elections of board members. A call for Secretary nomination was also announced. Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM with an introduction of first presenter.

Presentation 1

Mr. Ray Hymel provided a comprehensive overview of updates from the Legislative session including a close look at the budget – State Comptroller's Biennial Revenue Estimate, in which Comptroller Glenn Hegar projected lawmakers had \$104.9 billion in General Revenue at their discretion. The decision to utilize Rainy Day Funds represents a compromise between the House and Senate and partially compensates for the revenue shortfall. Rainy Day dollars, approximately \$990 million, will be used for one-time expenses such as repairs to state hospitals, state-supported living centers and the Alamo. ERS Sunset Bill passed, which directs ERS to implement changes in its operations, mostly technical and the changes have little to no impact to active and retired state employees. Most notably will be a requirement of ERS to enhance the involvement of plan participants in claims appeals.

Mr. Hymel also discussed the state's contributions to the ERS pension fund and active/retired state employee health insurance in that it remained intact despite budgetary constraints. The state will continue to contribute 9.5 percent of payroll to the ERS pension fund, and agencies continue contributing 0.5 percent of payroll. Active employee contribution also remains the same at 9.5 percent. He also noted that the ERS Sunset Bill passed, which directs ERS to implement changes in its operations, mostly technical. The changes have little to no impact to active and retired state employees, to ERS board member training, reporting requirements or investment guidelines. It does not contain detrimental changes to pension plan or health care and no changes to the composition of the ERS board.

Special session begins July 18, 2017 and TPEA will closely monitor the session, which includes passing Sunset bills for five agencies, including Texas Medical Board (passed), property taxes, payroll deductions, bathroom bill and more.

Break:

9:55 am – 10:05 am

Presentation 2

Ms. Kathryn Tesar provided a comprehensive update to ERS and the new medical administrator for HealthSelect of Texas and Consumer Directed HealthSelect plans to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, with a note that ERS sets benefits and pays claims, while BCBSTX manages provider networks, processes claims and provides customer service. Ms. Tesar discussed there are no major benefit or plan changes. Medical plans are

available to employees, retirees, and their eligible dependents. Plans offer the same provider network, and preventive services as provided by a network doctor, such as annual check-ups and vaccinations which are covered at 100 percent, and no changes to the mental health network which can help members with an emotional problem and provide counseling and support.

The HealthSelect of Texas plan requires members to choose a primary care physician (PCP) to manage care. A reminder to share with employees was announced to select a PCP if one has not been chosen. Checking with www.bcbstx.com/hs to check if providers are in-network was also recommended. If provider is not in the network, a participant can nominate a provider, the form can be found online at <https://www.bcbstx.com/hs> under the forms tab or contact a Personal Health Assistant for guidance.

Break

10:55 am - 1:10 am

Presentation 3

Ms. Becky Gillespie gave a detailed update of the new medical administrator, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, for HealthSelect of Texas and Consumer Directed HealthSelect plans effective September 1, 2017. Visit www.bcbstx.com/hs to check if providers are in-network. If current provider is not in network, a participant can nominate a provider to be added to the network. If a member is currently receiving treatment from a PCP who will not be in the BCBSTX HealthSelect network after September 1, 2017, member may apply to continue treatment with that particular PCP temporarily. Ms. Gillespie spoke of the 'Personal Health Assistants' or 'PHA', available to help members verify if a doctor or specialist is in-network. PHA's answer a multitude of questions about your benefits and can provide assistance with prior authorizations and referrals or provide information about HealthSelect programs and benefits. New medical ID cards and welcome kit will begin mailing out in late August. All members currently enrolled will be automatically transferred to BCBSTX by September 1, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017 there will be a \$0 copayment for virtual visits for HealthSelect of Texas; there is additional virtual visit provider: MDLIVE or Doctor on Demand. A reduced Airrosti copay of \$25.00 per visit, and a choice of weight management programs, either Naturally Slim or the continuation of the program Real Appeal. Both are provided as a free online weight management program to members. Current active referrals on file with UnitedHealthcare that extend beyond September 2, 2017 will be transferred to BCBSTX, if a specialist on the active referral is in the BCBSTX network the referral will be honored through the end date of the original referral.

Ballots collected for FY 2018 Board members

Ballots were collected and counted by former Secretary Rachel Ramirez. The Association's board for FY 2018 is:

President	Tracie Rehyer
President-elect	Alma Craig
Secretary	Deborah "Dee" Salinas
Treasurer	Suzanne "Suzy" Retiz

Next TSHRA Meeting

TBA, October 2017

Meeting concluded at 11:35 am ~~TSEA~~