



**EDMONDS DISABILITY BOARD**  
**Meeting minutes**  
**October 18, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Jones, Chair  
 Gary McComas, Board Member  
 Strom Peterson, Council Member  
 Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Council Member  
 Dr. Michael Deming, Citizen at Large

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary Ann Hardie, HR Analyst

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Ken Jones called the Board meeting to order at 8:34 am. Citizen at Large Dr. Michael Deming arrived at the meeting at 8:35 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Member Strom Peterson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 28, 2011. Board Member Gary McComas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**DISCUSS AND APPROVE CLAIMS SUMMARY REPORT:**

HR Analyst Mary Ann Hardie reviewed the Claims Summary of July 1, 2011 up to and including September 30, 2011 as follows:

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT COSTS: (7/1/11 - 9/30/11)**

SERVICE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS	COST
Prescription Co-Pays	14	\$1,969.82
Visiting Angels Nurse Care	6	29,848.82
Purchase of Eye Glasses	-	-
Medicare Premium Reimbursement	-	-
Dental Reimbursement	5	606.00
Payment of Annual deductibles	-	-
Hearing Aids	-	-
Routine & Preventative Costs or costs associated with Annual Physical Exams	-	-
Medical Equipment/Medically Necessary Services	1	920.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$33,344.64</b>

The total expense for the period 7/1/11 – 9/30/11 was \$33,344.64 with 26 claims for the period. Ms. Hardie explained that the total cost for this period is higher than the expense for the same period in 2010 due to the increase in Visiting Angels Nurse Care costs (with two LEOFF 1 members using this service). Ms. Hardie further stated that there was more information for the Board to review regarding one LEOFF 1 members using the Visiting Angels Nurse Care services (to be discussed later in the meeting as noted in the agenda). Chair Ken Jones made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period 7/1/11 – 9/30/11. Dr. Michael Deming seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT**

**Request for Reimbursement for hearing aids in the amount of \$6,250.00**

A LEOFF 1 member submitted a request for reimbursement to the Board along with documentation of medical necessity from the healthcare service provider for a pair of hearing aids in the amount of \$6,250.00. Ms. Hardie stated that per Hearing Aid reimbursement policy, there was a maximum amount of \$2,000 per hearing aid (\$4,000 per pair total) allowed to be reimbursed under the policy and that (per the policy) any additional costs over that amount were subject to approval determination by the Board.

There was some discussion that followed by the Board regarding revising the current Hearing Aid policy to require LEOFF 1 members requesting reimbursement for this item (above the \$4,000 policy maximum) to also submit two cost estimates for hearing aids (from different providers) to the Board for consideration. There was also some discussion about the cost of hearing aids and providers (such as Costco) that may offer hearing aids at a low cost. Chair Jones made a motion to request that the LEOFF 1 member of discussion provide an additional estimate for hearing aids to the Board from another service provider in order for the Board to further consider the reimbursement request. Dr. Deming seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Hardie stated that she would: 1) contact the LEOFF 1 member of discussion and notify him of the Board's request and; 2) revise the current Hearing Aid policy (to include the requirement by the Board for LEOFF 1 members to submit two cost estimates from two health care service providers for this item when the cost exceeds \$2,000 per hearing aid) and bring a draft back for approval by the Board at the next meeting.

**Request for Reimbursement for ear molds in the amount of \$65.00**

A LEOFF 1 member submitted a request for reimbursement to the Board for hearing aid ear molds in the amount of \$65.00 along with documentation from the hearing aid service provider explaining the need for the hearing aid molds. Council Member Adrienne Fraley-Monillas made a motion to approve the request for reimbursement for the LEOFF 1 member of discussion in the amount of \$65.00 for ear molds based on medical necessity. Chair Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Request for Reimbursement for ambulance transport fees in the amount of \$306.72**

A LEOFF 1 member submitted a request for reimbursement to the Board for ambulance transport fees in the amount of \$306.72. Ms. Hardie explained that she had contacted Regence to confirm that this item had been processed through Regence and what the additional amount owing on this bill was for (if it had been processed by Regence). Ms. Hardie further explained that: 1) Regence confirmed this bill had been processed and; 2) that this medical service was only covered at 80% with the remaining 20% balance (not covered by Regence) at \$306.72. Board Member McComas made a motion to approve the reimbursement request to the LEOFF 1 member of discussion in the amount of \$306.72 for ambulance transport fees based on medical necessity. Dr. Deming seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**REVIEW OF A LEOFF 1 MEMBER'S ONGOING NEED FOR VISITING ANGELS NURSE CARE SERVICES**

Ms. Hardie explained that at the last meeting in July, the Board had requested that one of the LEOFF 1 members using Visiting Angels nurse care services (for the last few years) provide the Board with an update from the medical service provider (as to the status of the LEOFF 1's condition that requires the medical necessity for the use of this service). There was some discussion that followed by the Board regarding the LEOFF 1 member and the documentation that was provided. There was some discussion that followed regarding the use of Visiting Angels nurse care services by the Board for the other LEOFF 1 member.

Council Member Fraley-Monillas inquired as to whether the other LEOFF 1 member using Visiting Angels nurse care services was able to be in a long term care facility instead of using the Visiting Angels nurse care services. Ms. Hardie responded that she would need to follow up with the LEOFF 1 member about this but that the determination by the Board to approve the requests for reimbursement of this service (based on medical necessity) may have been due to the inability of the LEOFF 1 member to be admitted to a long term care facility due to his medical condition.

No motion was required of the Board on this agenda item.

### **REVIEW OF IN-HOME CARE ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES POLICY DRAFT**

Ms. Hardie explained that at the last meeting in July, the Board had requested that the HR staff survey other cities with Disability Boards and collect information on their policy regarding in-home care assisted living services. Additionally, the Board had requested that the HR staff bring back a draft policy for in-home care assisted living services for the Board to review and/or approve.

The Board reviewed the in-home care assisted living services policy draft and there was some discussion that followed about the content of the policy. Council Member Fraley-Monillas pointed out that the second bullet of the policy (regarding maximum monthly benefit rates) should include the word “private” before “nursing facilities” since the rates at private and public facilities differ greatly. Ms. Hardie stated that she would update the policy and bring a finalized policy for the Board at the next meeting. Council Member Fraley-Monillas made a motion to approve the draft policy with the updated to the second bullet wording to read as “private nursing facilities” instead of “nursing facilities.” Council Member Strom Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **UPDATE ON A LEOFF 1 MEMBER’S CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING A REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT**

Ms. Hardie reminded the Board that at the last meeting in July there was a LEOFF 1 member who had submitted a reimbursement request for services provided in Mexico (with documentation provided only in Spanish). Ms. Hardie stated that she had initially sent a memo on May 9, 2011 to the LEOFF 1 member requesting that additional documentation be provided (in English) in order for the Board to further consider the request. Ms. Hardie further stated that in response to this memo, she had received a discourteous voice mail message from the LEOFF 1 member shortly after which she forwarded to her supervisor at that time (Debi Humann) regarding the request. No additional information was provided for the Board to review at that time.

After reviewing the reimbursement request at the meeting in July the Board requested that the HR staff prepare an additional letter to the LEOFF 1 member (reiterating the need for appropriate documentation in English be provided in order for the Board to further consider the request). Ms. Hardie stated that as a result of the letter that was sent to the LEOFF 1 member after the meeting (on 7/28/11), the LEOFF 1 member left a discourteous voice mail message for Ms. Humann and did not provide any additional information for the Board as requested.

Board Member McComas made a motion to deny the reimbursement request at this time for the LEOFF 1 member of discussion based on the lack of appropriate documentation requested by the Board. Furthermore, until such documentation is provided to the Board, the request will not be considered. Ken seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **OTHER**

Chair Jones stated that he had recently been told by his medical clinic (the Everett Clinic) that as of 1/1/12, all Medicare Part A and Part B members must select a Medicare Advantage plan in order to continue to be provided services through the Everett Clinic. Chair Jones went on to further explain that he was informed that any retirees on a government or private insurance plan will continue to be allowed services through the Everett Clinic. Chair Jones inquired as to whether or not the HR staff had heard of this situation and thought he might mention it in case any of our LEOFF 1 members also encountered a similar situation. Ms. Hardie stated that she had not heard about this program and that she would research the Medicare Advantage plan through her HR resources and bring information back to the Board at the next meeting about it.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None. The Disability Board meeting adjourned at 9:17 am.