



EDMONDS' DISABILITY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Specially Called Meeting
6/20/2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Jones, Chair
Gary McComas, Board Member
Dave Teitzel, Council Member
Diane Buckshnis, Council Member
Jim Distelhorst, Citizen-At-Large

STAFF PRESENT:

Sharon Cates, City Attorney
Mary Ann Hardie, Human Resources Director
Emily Wagener, Human Resources Analyst

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Julianne Fickeisen-Thal

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Ken Jones called the meeting to order at 9:04 am

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Dave Teitzel made a motion to approve the 4/20/18 (specially called) meeting minutes, Council Member Diane Buckshnis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING CARE SITUATION FROM THE APRIL 2018 SPECIALLY CALLED MEETING (Patient Care Advocate recommendations)

The Board thanked Julianne Frickeisen-Thal, First Choice Advisory Patient Care Advocate for her work with the LEOFF 1 retiree and attend the meeting. Ms. Frickeisen-Thal explained that she understood that this was a difficult situation and that this [long term care service] was an expense for the Board. She further explained that the LEOFF 1 retiree did not need skilled nursing care and that he is currently at a skilled nursing care facility and doesn't want to leave the facility. Ms. Fickeisen-Thal said that she believed the facility he is at may: 1) be providing misinformation to the LEOFF 1 retiree, 2) that the facility does not want him to leave, 3) she [Ms. Fickeisen-Thal] is not able to physically move him, and 4) can only provide advocacy. The average cost for care is \$7000.00 per month.

There was further discussion that followed by the Board about Ms. Fickeisen-Thal's experience working with previous Boards and she explained that she had worked with groups that usually have long term care insurance, but that she has worked with retirees that have an excess pension and she is very familiar with how this works.

Ms. Fickeisen-Thal explained that the LEOFF 1 retiree does not seem to understand that the care level he needs is no longer skilled nursing care and that he is also confused about all the medical equipment the facility believes he needs. She further explained that medical equipment gets paid through insurance, with a prescription. The Board expressed concern about potential improper billing as the facility having billed the LEOFF 1 retiree (who in turn submitted requests for reimbursement to the Board) for items that should have been paid for through insurance. The Board requested that HR follow up with the facility and that legal provide a letter to the facility to document that this has occurred and to bring it to their attention. Ms. Hardie stated that HR would do an audit and that there were only a few items that had been paid as medical documentation had not been provided for the items and that there may only be a few months where these services were paid for.

There was further discussion that followed by the Board about the care and rent breakdown for the facilities recommended and that Foss and Pacifica costs would be paid for by Medicaid (if the LEOFF 1 retiree was eligible for this) after two years of residency in the facility. IT was clarified that he is not a two person transfer and that there is a "community" fee (that is a one-time fee) charged by almost every facility. There was further discussion that followed about the availability of facilities.

Ms. Fickeisen-Thal explained that, her recommendation was Foss or Pacific (assisted living care facilities) and that she intended to have a conversation with the friend of the LEOFF 1 retiree that she is authorized to talk to and have him help explain the benefits of these two facilities. It was clarified that the LEOFF 1 retiree was competent to comprehend what was being discussed.

Ms. Fickeisen-Thal explained that the LEOFF 1 retiree would receive an appropriate quality and level of care at all of the facilities she recommended. There was further discussion that followed by the Board about: 1) setting a monthly limit based on the cost of the facilities that had been reviewed that were appropriate for the LEOFF 1 retiree based on medical necessity and, 2) if the LEOFF 1 member chose to stay in the current facility, he would be responsible for paying any additional costs at the facility beyond the limit set by the Board. Board Member Gary McComas expressed concern about setting a limit of \$7000.00 per month should the LEOFF 1 retiree need further medical care or should his medical situation change. The Board further discussed that, as they have and would with other LEOFF 1 retirees, review this situation again if that was the case.

After further discussion regarding effective date of the Board's decision, **Chair Jones made a motion to approve the reimbursement cost of care and rent for up to \$7,000 per month for assisted living care facility rent for the LEOFF 1 retiree of discussion based on medical necessity effective August 1, 2018. Citizen-At-Large Jim Distelhorst seconded the motion.** The motion carried. Ms. Fickeisen-Thal stated she would reach out to the LEOFF 1 retiree and friend immediately and let them know the Board's decision. She then indicated she would follow up with an email to Ms. Hardie after contacting the LEOFF 1 retiree.

Ms. Hardie stepped out to attend another meeting that could not be rescheduled and HR Assistant Emily Wagener took her place.

ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING CARE EXPENSES FOR A CURRENT LEOFF 1 MEMBER (Increased costs for the assisted living care providers and authorization to use an additional, independent caregiver)

There was some discussion amongst the Board regarding the LEOFF1 retiree of discussion currently has caregivers come to their home to assist with care. There was discussion about future potential costs with this LEOFF 1 retiree and possibly looking at other solutions. Council Member Teitzel reminded the Board that other care options have been reviewed for this member and was not ideal for the member nor the City at that time. Dr. Distelhorst asked for confirmation if this is the member who has issues with behavior that makes it difficult to retain caregivers. The Board agreed unanimously that it was.

After further discussion of this LEOFF 1 retiree's history, **Council Member Teitzel made a motion to approve the package as presented to cover the increased cost of the assisted living care providers and authorization to use an additional independent caregiver for this member. Council Member Buckshnis seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

OTHER (Next meeting Date)

There was some discussion that followed by the Board about scheduling availability for the third quarter meeting. The Board agreed on either July 18th at 9:30am or July 19th 10:00am as the next best meeting date. Ms. Wagener indicated she would bring these dates to Ms. Hardie, who would send out the meeting date notice to the Board.

Ms. Wagener also reminded the Board that, at the next meeting, all Board policies would be reviewed. There was some discussion regarding the necessity of an annual policy review but it was agreed that it had been an ongoing practice and would continue. Board Member McComas expressed preference for having his packet mailed to his address for the next board meeting and Ms. Wagener agreed that HR would do so. The remainder of the Board agreed to continue to receive their packets via email.

After verifying that there was no further business for the Board to discuss, **Chair Jones Adjourned the meeting at 10:02 am.**