



EDMONDS DISABILITY BOARD Meeting minutes

July 28, 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:

Debi Humann, HR Director
Mary Ann Hardie, HR Analyst

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Ken Jones called the Board meeting to order at 8:37 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Citizen at Large Dr. Michael Deming made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 21, 2011. Council Member Strom Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE CLAIMS SUMMARY REPORT:

Ms. Humann reviewed the Claims Summary of April 1, 2011 up to and including June 30, 2011 as follows:

SUMMARY OF CURRENT COSTS: (4/1/11 - 6/30/11)

SERVICE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS	COST
Prescription Co-Pays	15	\$3,022.21
Visiting Angels Nurse Care	5	21,956.73
Purchase of Eye Glasses	1	55.00
Medicare Premium Reimbursement	2	2,313.60
Dental Reimbursement	6	827.05
Hearing Aids	2	6,709.00
Medical Equipment/Medically Necessary Services	3	1,368.28
TOTALS:	34	\$36,251.87

The total expense for the period 4/1/11 – 6/30/11 was \$36,251.87 with a total of 34 claims for the period which is consistent with the total claims expense in 2010 for the same period. Chair Ken Jones made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period 1/1/11 – 3/31/11. It was noted two areas of higher expenses this period were: 1) Visiting Angels Nurse Care services (\$21,956.73) and; 2) hearing aids (\$6,709.00).

Dr. Michael Deming pointed out that his spouse had recently purchased hearing aids at Costco and had paid \$1,200.00 for two hearing aids. Dr. Deming suggested that Costco may be a resource for LEOFF 1 members to considering using if they need to purchase hearing aids. Dr. Deming further stated that many people may not be aware that Costco will fill prescriptions for Non-Costco members [often at a lower co-pay cost than regular retail chain pharmacies].

Council Member Adrienne Fraley-Monillas inquired as to the total number of LEOFF 1 retirees. Ms. Humann responded that there are currently 33 LEOFF 1 members. There was a short discussion that followed by the Board about the LEOFF 1 members who have passed away in the last year. One Board member stated that the cost of a deceased family member's funeral service cost \$14,000. Dr. Deming commented that Venus Crematorium (425) 771-6010 handles cremation services at reasonable prices and may be another resource for LEOFF 1 members. Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the claims summary expenditure report for the period 4/1/11 – 6/30/11. Chair Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Request for Reimbursement for two items from Optica Turati

HR Director Debi Humann explained that a LEOFF 1 member had submitted a request for reimbursement along with two receipts of purchase from Optica Turati (which is located in Mexico). The LEOFF 1 member was sent a letter requesting additional information in order to clarify what the purchase was for and for the provider to submit a receipt in English (since it is unclear as to what the cost of the purchase was for) in order for the Board to further consider this request for reimbursement. After receiving the letter, the LEOFF 1 member of discussion contacted the Human Resources department and stated that his provider would not provide a receipt in English and he did not provide any additional information for the Board to review.

After some discussion by the Board, Board Member Gary McComas made a motion directing the Human Resources department to send a letter to the LEOFF 1 member of discussion requesting that a copy of the receipt be submitted to the Board [in English] from the service provider along with a copy of the eye glasses reimbursement policy. Board Member McComas further stated that in order for this request to be considered a [valid] request for reimbursement based on medical necessity, the LEOFF 1 member would need to supply this additional information in compliance with the reimbursement policy. Chair Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Humann stated that she would send the LEOFF 1 member of discussion a letter as requested by the Board.

Request for reimbursement of occlusal guards associated with sleep apnea in the amount of \$920.00

A LEOFF 1 member submitted a request for reimbursement based on medical necessity to the Board for occlusal guards in the amount of \$920.00. The LEOFF 1 member submitted a copy of the receipt for payment (in the amount of \$2,000.00) along with a letter from the attending doctor outlining the medical necessity of the occlusal guard and a copy of a check from Regence in the amount of \$1,080.00 reimbursed to the LEOFF 1 member. Ms. Humann explained that while dentists are not covered providers under the Regence insurance plan, there is a medical equipment benefit of 80% of the cost under the Regence plan for medical equipment.

The HR staff contacted Regence for a further explanation of what was paid by the insurance company and it was determined that: 1) The total cost of the occlusal guards was \$2,000 (which was paid for in full by the LEOFF 1 member of record); 2) Regence paid 80% of the cost of the occlusal guards (less the \$50.00 applicable deductible) for a total benefit of \$1,080.00 reimbursed to the LEOFF 1 member and; 3) The remaining \$920.00 was the remaining amount that the LEOFF 1 member was requesting reimbursement for from the Board based on medical necessity. Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the reimbursement request for the LEOFF 1 member of discussion based on medical necessity. Chair Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Deming stated that another resource for discounted (used) medical equipment for LEOFF 1 members may be MSHS closet (located in Edmonds).

REVIEW RCW COVERING THE ADDITION OF SURVIVOR BENEFITS AFTER RETIREMENT

Ms. Humann distributed copies of the RCW (41.26.164) covering the addition of survivor benefits [for LEOFF 1 members] after retirement to the Board. Ms. Humann explained that a LEOFF 1 member had inquired as to whether or not his significant other would be immediately eligible for survivor benefits if she

were his spouse. Unfortunately, the LEOFF 1 member stated that he had a terminal illness and the likely prognosis was that he would not live longer than several months.

Ms. Humann further explained that she notified the LEOFF 1 member that per the RCW 41.26.164 (2b) the LEOFF 1 member's spouse would be ineligible for survivor benefits until after a one year period from the date of marriage.

UPDATE ONGOING NEED FOR VISITING ANGELS NURSE CARE SERVICES

Ms. Humann stated that at the April 2011 meeting, the Board requested that a LEOFF 1 member using Visiting Angels Nurse Care services (since 2007) submit updated information from the LEOFF 1 member's attending physician (regarding the status of the LEOFF 1 member and the ongoing need for Visiting Angels Nurse Care services). As a result of that request, Ms. Humann sent a letter to the LEOFF 1 member requesting this information (a copy of the letter was included in the meeting agenda packet).

The LEOFF 1 member's spouse contacted Ms. Humann after receiving the letter and stated that he would work on obtaining medical information from the LEOFF 1 member's attending physician. He also stated that the LEOFF 1 member's physical status is not improving and continuing to decline.

Ms. Humann pointed out that although the Board has a policy for Nursing Home/Assisted Living [Facility] care services, that there is no policy for Assisted Living Care (in home) services. With two LEOFF 1 members now using in-home Visiting Angels Nurse Care services, it may be appropriate for the Board to consider a reimbursement policy for this service. Ms. Humann stated that currently, Visiting Angels Nurse Care services is intermittently (as needed, based on medical necessity) pre-approved by the Board when other care such as nursing home/assisted living care is unavailable. There was some discussion that followed by the Board about the need to set a nurse care services [in home, non-facility] policy and about setting policy limits.

Board Member McComas suggested that instead of creating a new policy, it may be useful to obtain policies on Visiting Angels Nurse Care services from other cities with LEOFF 1 retirees/Disability Boards and to consider using some of the other cities' policy language in crafting the City's policy. Ms. Humann stated that she has been collecting information from other cities on this and that she will bring a draft policy on nurse care services to the Board for review at the October 2011 meeting.

OTHER

None.

NEW BUSINESS

The Disability Board meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.