

From: Alejandra Livingston [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 1:38 PM

Subject: Public Comment

Hello Ms. Lunz, unfortunately, I was unable to speak up at the Board meeting on Thursday or to submit written comment. I started working for GOED and had meetings all day. I hope that you can still share my concerns to the Board. I am noticing that the new health insurer for State employees takes too long to pre-authorize procedures, imaging, injections, etc. and this is unacceptable as one needs to receive treatment. In addition, when doctors bill them, they question the statements in too much detail and send letter after letter trying to ask for more details for something like X-rays of my teeth. We public employees take furloughs, meager raises, and get bad medical care and poor access. Some of our providers are not in the plan yet, and they have submitted paperwork months ago, and there aren't other providers that give the same type of treatment in the community. If UMR/Optum wants to be contracted with the state, they should be accountable for a given level of performance, just like we state employees are. We are public servants and deserve better than that, and this is affecting the members as well as their dependents. The board's attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much,

Alejandra Livingston
State employee of 26.5 years.

With the recent notification that Kroger and its affiliate stores (including Smith's) are leaving the Express Scripts network as of the end of the year and the PEBP board making the decision to renew the ESI contract, PEBP is putting its employees in Northern Nevada into a real pickle as far as pharmacy choice is concerned. I am aware of two communities – Dayton and West Wendover – where Smith's is the only pharmacy in town. Furthermore, with Save Mart pulling out of the pharmacy business and Raley's closing many of their pharmacies, options keep going from bad to worse for Reno / Sparks / Carson City too.

The PEBP board needs to re-consider their contract with ESI and go back to the Oregon / Washington consortium to see if they will allow PEBP to participate. ESI mail order is terrible at best, at least where I live due to non-USPS carriers delivering our mail, losing prescriptions in the process. At least the Oregon / Washington consortium had other pharmacy options. When people ask how the state insurance is now, I have to tell them it is probably one of the worst plans imaginable, at least compared to what it was when my family started working for the state in the 1980s.

From: Alejandra Livingston [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 3:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Complaint about Public Benefits

Hello, I have comments for the meeting on December 5. The Public Benefits agency is a mess and terribly inefficient. They don't answer their phones and ever since they got away with Healthscope our providers cannot get a hold of anyone to go over stale claims from before July of this year. I retired November 1st after 27 years of service. I submitted all paperwork to PEBS about retirement and they ensured me on several occasions that I qualified that all was fine, that in December they would audit my years to conclude that I qualified for the full subsidy. Today, December 1st, I went to the doctor to find out that UMR is saying that my kids and my benefits have been terminated. I called PEBS and they answered after 45 minutes (ridiculous) and said that they also could see that I am no longer covered and don't know why but they will research it with eligibility. Please, treat your retirees better, we all stay long enough to earn our rights and benefits. If my benefits are not reinstated within 24 hours, I will take legal action. Hire people who are efficient, and don't have a recording saying they have staff shortages because there are no job adds for public benefits. If they are working from home, make them work from the office to ensure they are doing their work.

Please, until December 5, I like to have a supervisor or board member to address this issue of my benefits at once. They ensured me that I would continue my benefits and I have evidence of that because I communicated with them through the portal.

Thanks,

December 1, 2022

For Public Comment, PEBP Board Meeting, December 5, 2022

To: PEBP Board

From: Brooke Maylath

It is with very mixed feelings I bring up the fact that PEBP settled with Lambda Legal to finally approve coverage of medically necessary facial feminization surgery for a transgender state of Nevada employee. I am very pleased to see the procedure was covered and the settlement has led to the master plan removing the discriminatory exclusions that have been in place for years. At the same time, I am extremely disappointed in the PEBP board for not taking proactive action to eliminate the problematic exclusions as I've been bringing forth for the past two years. The lack of action has caused the plan to pay out \$45,000 in settlement costs that could have been avoided.

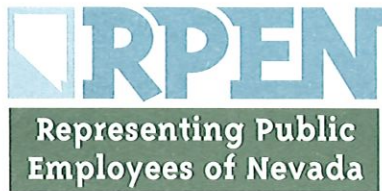
I lay the cause of the hesitancy to act in a responsible, proactive manner to the sociopoliticization of medical care for a segment of the worker population that the board has taken little effort to understand. There is a loud part of our society that hate us and want to keep our differences private and behind closed doors. This attitude dehumanizes us and invites hateful people to act out in violent ways, most recently and graphically the mass shooting in Colorado Springs. The Board's failure to proactively embrace non-discrimination of transgender people's health care coverage is directly linked to the messaging that underlies the heinous acts perpetrated against us. Keep this in mind as you make choices in the future.

When looking to the future, I note the audit report indicates the Plan will continue to monitor ongoing developments from the EEOC, and that the plan has not recently performed non-discrimination testing. I will be the first to say this is long overdue and must be done with alacrity. The Lambda Legal settlement should be more than a warning, it's a call to action.

The Plan has yet to make the changes I've requested since May, to remove the gatekeeping mental health diagnostic requirement for an adult to access gender affirming hormone therapy. Under the Affordable Care act and under NRS 613.330, having a different requirement for access to medication for transgender people that is different from cis-gender people is discriminatory. You are inviting another Lambda Legal type settlement with financial penalties that far outweigh any other consideration. Do not side with ill-informed people with bad intent.

ACLU Attorney Chase Strangio has said, "The NYTs and Reuters have launched 'special investigations' into trans care while we face an all-out assault. The problem is not that we have too much care. The problem is not that there are 'surging' numbers of trans people. The problem these journalists and lawmakers have is that our capacity for self-determination and self-actualization threatens the state's investment in control, power, and bodily and family regulation."

Transgender people deserve to be treated with the same rights and respect as cis-gender people. Nothing less is acceptable.



December 5, 2022

Hello Board Chair Freed and fellow Board Members.

My name for the record is Terri Laird, and I am the Executive Director for RPEN, the Retired Public Employees of Nevada, where we represent active and retired public employees. We were created in 1976 so we will begin our 47th year in 2023 with nearly 8-thousand dues paying members within 17 chapters located statewide.

This has been a difficult year for PEBP with many vendor issues and RPEN members have contacted our office several times this year asking for help because they haven't been able to reach anyone at PEBP, whether it's in a timely manner or whether it's a case of someone new who is unable to assist them with their problem. We also learned from Executive Officer Laura Rich throughout the year that PEBP, along with many state agencies, continue to suffer from a staffing shortage which leads to the issues I just mentioned, a staff that's unable to assist participants in a timely manner.

We hope 2023 will prove to be better, now that we know that the state's gaming economy is booming, so hopefully state agencies won't have their budgets sliced and diced as they were during the last legislative session.

We also are hopeful that those staffing shortages will be addressed by our next Legislature and our new Governor. And at the same time, since the state's economy is doing so much better, we're also hopeful that all state agencies will be able to hire new employees at a livable wage. Once the state staffing levels have improved, it will also go a long way toward addressing the contribution rates that must be imposed by the Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) because when staffing levels are low, contribution rates are high...so if staffing levels improve statewide then NV PERS contribution rates might be able to come down at some point in the near future. We realize that this Board is unable to address staffing or PERS contribution rates, but perhaps these issues CAN be addressed at the 82nd Session that begins February 6.

Until then, we thank this Board and the PEBP Board Staff who have assisted RPEN and our members this year to solve some of their issues and we look forward to working together in that same vein in the coming year. We also wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah and Kwanzaa as well as a very Happy New Year.

Terri Laird, RPEN Executive Director