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AGENDA ITEM

Action Item

Information Only

Date: September 29, 2022

Item Number: IX

Title: Executive Officer Report

REPORT

STAFFING AND OPERATIONS

PEBP is pleased to announce that our vacancy rate has improved from 32% to 20%. PEBP has successfully onboarded new employees to fill four of the eleven vacancies, but it will be several months before many of them are fully trained.

Lower call center call volume has resulted in improved call center wait times, but email response times continue to be longer than normal. PEBP has temporarily reinstated one-day-a-week walk-ins by appointment in order to accommodate members who wish to meet with PEBP staff in person, however if call volumes increase (such as during Medicare Open Enrollment), walk-ins may have to be suspended.

BUDGET UPDATE

State agencies, including PEBP, were required to submit agency request budgets by August 31. At the request of the Board, PEBP submitted a second budget which included the reinstatement of all benefits to pre-pandemic levels. Agencies begin presenting their respective budgets to the Governor's Finance Office (GFO) during the September/October months. This allows GFO staff to ask questions in preparation for how the agency requests will eventually become a part of the Governor's Recommended Budget, which is released in mid-January.

82ND (2023) LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 82nd Legislative Session is scheduled to begin on February 6, 2023. PEBP has already begun tracking Bill Draft Requests (BDR) as they get posted. To date, 90 of the 446 posted BDR's have been identified as bills impacting healthcare or issues that may have an impact on the agency in general.

As detailed bill language is released, the list of BDR's PEBP is tracking will start to dwindle; however, PEBP anticipates a large volume of healthcare related bills and expects to be very busy this upcoming legislative session. As we have done previously, monthly Board meetings will be scheduled between February and May 2023 to provide the Board an opportunity to discuss and weigh in on proposed legislation.

OFFICE RELOCATION

Throughout the last several years there have been conversations about the possibility of PEBP moving out of the Bryan Building to provide needed space for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Recently, the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) indicated their need to expand their current space in order to meet federal requirements and standards. DEM's expansion will require the Division of Forestry (NDF), which is a division of DCNR, to move. Since it makes sense to house NDF in the Bryan Building, PEBP (with the support of the Governor's Office) has agreed to locate to a new space.

Although PEBP has identified a new office location in Carson City that will accommodate the agency needs, the timing of the move is highly contingent on necessary IT equipment which, unfortunately, is on backorder. The goal is to move before legislative session begins in February 2023, however if that is determined to not be possible, the move will likely be delayed until after July 2023 to avoid any disruptions to activities relating to session and open enrollment.