



**City of Bellevue**  
**Human Resources Department**

**Date:** March 1, 2017  
**To:** LEOFF 1 Disability Board members  
**From:** Paula Dillon x 7198, Human Resources  
**RE:** Tuesday, March 7, 2017, Regular Meeting

Please review the attached Agenda packet for the upcoming LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. The meeting will be held in Room 1E-118.

Attachments

**Distribution List**

*Disability Board Members:*

Susan Neiman, Chair  
Lynne Robinson, Councilmember  
Wayne Bergeron, Fire Department  
Bryan Reil, Police Department

*Other Copies:*

Siona Windsor, City Attorney's Office  
Kerry Sievers/Julie Howe, Human Resources  
Paula Dillon, Human Resources  
Sandra Nunnelee, Council Coordinator  
Michelle Luce, Council Coordinator  
Mark Risen, Fire Department  
Steve Mylett, Police Department  
Michelle Cash, Minutes taker – without attachments



# **City of Bellevue**

## ***Disability Board***

### **Agenda Regular Meeting City Hall, Conference Room 1E-118**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 7, 2017

**Time:** 5:30 pm Administrative Meeting  
6:00 pm Business Meeting

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meetings, January 18 & February 7, 2017**
- V. Consideration of Applications for Disability Allowances**
  - A. Applications for Disability Allowances**
    - 1) Fire Department**
  - B. Applications for Disability Allowances Greater than 1 month**
    - 1) Fire Department**
- VII. Consideration of Medical Claims**
  - A. Routine claims**
  - B. Special claims**
  - C. Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims**
- VI. Staff Reports**
- VII. New Business**
- XI. Unfinished Business**
- X. Announce Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2017**
- XI. Adjournment**

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
LEOFF 1 DISABILITY BOARD  
Meeting Minutes**

January 18, 2017  
5:30 p.m. – Administration  
6:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

Conference Room 1E-120  
Bellevue City Hall

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Susan Neiman  
Boardmember Bryan Reil  
Councilmember Lynne Robinson

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Boardmember Wayne Bergeron

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Paula Dillon, Human Resources  
Siona Windsor, City Attorney's Office

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chair Neiman.

Ms. Dillon reported that Councilmember Slatter announced plans to resign from her Council position. Councilmember Slatter has been appointed to be a representative in the Washington House of Representatives.

**II. ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the December 13, 2016, LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (3-0).**

**V. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCES**

A. Applications for Disability Allowances

None.

B. Applications for Disability Allowances Greater than 1 month

None.

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CLAIMS**

A. Routine Claims

None.

B. Special Claims

**Motion by Councilmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the Special Claims as presented.**

Ms. Dillon called attention to the new materials that were submitted by Member #58 regarding a dental related claim. She added that staff was able to obtain a cost estimate from Washington Dental Service for the implant, placement and crown of \$4,706-\$5,632. Since Wasington Dental Service does not provide coverage for bone grafts, further research was conducted. The following estimates were obtained:

- \$3,500-\$6,000
- \$4,000-\$7,500
- \$3,662
- \$4,203-\$6,403

Chair Nieman expressed her concern about the increase in dental claims from LEOFF 1 Members.

Ms. Windsor explained that the Board has discretion when determining if a dental claim is an “accidental injury.” She reviewed RCW 41.26.030 (19.iii.H) to help determine reasonable parameters for a claim, which states:

*“The charges for the following medical services and supplies: ...dental charges incurred by a member who sustains an accidental injury to his or her teeth and who commences treatment by a legally licensed dentist within ninety days after the accident.”*

After reviewing the documentation for Member #58’s claim, Boardmembers determined that the chargers for dental treatment are medically necessary due to the unique circumstances of the claim related to the Member’s accident in 1981.

In reviewing Member #92's claim, Councilmember Robinson did not view the request for stem cell injections as medically necessary. However, since this claim was preapproved she will vote to approve this claim.

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (3-0) to approve the Special Claims as presented.**

C. Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims

The pre-approved recurring long-term care claims were reviewed and included in the Board packet.

**VII. STAFF REPORT**

None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**X. ANNOUNCE DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Disability Board meeting will be held on February 7, 2017.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
LEOFF 1 DISABILITY BOARD  
Meeting Minutes**

February 7, 2017  
5:30 p.m. – Administration  
6:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

Conference Room 1E-120  
Bellevue City Hall

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Susan Neiman  
Boardmember Wayne Bergeron  
Boardmember Bryan Reil

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Councilmember Lynne Robinson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Paula Dillon, Human Resources  
Siona Windsor, City Attorney's Office  
Member #92

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chair Neiman.

**II. ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Member #92 explained that he opted for stem cell therapy instead of a hip replacement and requested reimbursement from the Board for this procedure. The Member had the procedure in April, 2016 and noted that his pain level, post-stem cell therapy, has lessened.

Chair Neiman inquired if the Member sought treatment from an Orthopedist or other specialist. Member #92 clarified that he does not want to have a hip replacement and views steroids or other anti-inflammatory methods as band aid fixes for the hip pain.

Member #92 explained that the stem cell therapy is an experimental treatment that has been utilized by Emory University for approximately five years. Although not guaranteed by doctors, the Member is optimistic that the stem cell therapy will improve his condition and ultimately regenerate cartilage.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the January 18, 2017 meeting minutes was postponed due to a lack of quorum.

#### **V. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCES**

A. Applications for Disability Allowances

None.

B. Applications for Disability Allowances Greater than 1 month

None.

#### **VI. CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL CLAIMS**

A. Routine Claims

Motion by Boardmember Bergeron and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the Routine Claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

B. Special Claims

**Motion by Boardmember Bergeron and second by Boardmember Reil to approve the Special Claims as presented.**

Boardmembers discussed Member #92's claim for stem cell therapy. Ms. Dillon reminded Boardmembers that on April 1, 2016 Member #92 contacted staff and said that he was considering having a stem cell treatment instead of a hip replacement and asked if the Board would cover the cost. Staff recommended that the Member's doctor seek a pre-authorization from Premera first to see if they would cover the stem cell treatment. The Member's doctor submitted the request to Premera on April 19, 2016. The request was denied as being investigational. The Member had a stem cell therapy procedure performed on May 3, 2016 at a cost of \$7,000. Since Premera denied the pre-authorization, staff recommended that the doctor appeal the Premera denial. Appeal 1 was filed on May 6, 2016 and subsequently denied as being experimental/investigational. Appeal 2 was filed on June 6, 2016 and upheld the Level 1 appeal denial. Appeal 3 was filed on July 19, 2016 and upheld the Level 1 and 2 denials. In order for the claim to be completed, the Member needed an Explanation of Benefits from Premera. Therefore, the Member filed a claim with Premera on September 22, 2016 with a more detailed letter of medical necessity from the Member's doctor. Premera processed the claim on December 30, 2016. On the EOB, Premera denied the surgery as being an investigational or experimental procedure. The Member requests that the Board cover the adjusted cost of the

procedure due to medical necessity as outlined in the letter submitted from the Member's doctor dated September 22, 2016. The final amount charged to the Member was \$6006.09.

Ms. Windsor called attention to page 2 of the August 12, 2016 National Medical Review letter that was included in the Board packet, which stated:

*"The proposed Mesenchymal Stem Cell Therapy and Platelet-Rich Plasma are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary for the treatment of this member's condition. The expected benefit of the recommended or requested health care service or treatment is not more likely than not to be beneficial to the claimant than any available standard health care service or treatment. The adverse risks of the recommended or requested health care service or treatment are substantially increased over those of available standard health care services or treatments."*

In addition, Ms. Dillon called attention to the July 19, 2016 Member's physician letter (Dr. Ghislaine Robert) that was included in the Board packet, which stated:

*"As an alternative to surgery and the long recovery afterwards, the patient prefers to do stem cell and PRP treatment."*

Ms. Windsor noted that the Board has approved experimental treatments in the past after the Member has exhausted all other alternatives. In this case, the Member has opted to utilize the experimental treatment as the primary option.

Boardmember Bergeron noted that treatment for the Member's hip degeneration is medically necessary. However, he views the treatment selected not medically necessary.

Boardmembers requested a status update/prognosis for Member #58's psychiatric counseling sessions.

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (3-0) to approve the Special Claims for Member #12 and Member #58, and deny the Special Claim for Member #92.**

C. Pre-Approved Recurring Long-Term Care Claims

The pre-approved recurring long-term care claims were reviewed and included in the Board packet.

## **VII. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Dillon reported that there has been one nominee for the Police Representative Election. The nominee is Boardmember Reil. Nominations will close on February 15, 2017.



**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**X. ANNOUNCE DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Disability Board meeting will be held on March 7, 2017.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.