

Employer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-
February 18, 2010

DRS Staff Members Present:

George Pickett, Chairperson
Yvonne Haukom, Secretary Supervisor
Amanda Persell, Administrative Assistant
Brian Berghoff, DCP Plan Administrator
Kim Smith, Employer Support Manager
Rachel Nesse, PSID Project Manager
Dave Nelsen, Legislative Services Manager
Lanette Barton, Audit Supervisor
Monette Jenney, Trust Accounting Supervisor

Employer Members Present:

Karen Conley, DSHS
John Boesenberg, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges-
Information Technology
Nancy Savage, Pierce County
Sheryl Gordon, Green River Community College
Kim Nevling, City of Olympia

Employer Members Present via Conference Call:

Angie Gill, Washington State Patrol
Chandra Winston, Port of Seattle
Katy Dwyer, UW
Lisa Croft, Port of Tacoma
Lynn Guyton, Puyallup SD
Nancy Pooler, Port of Seattle

Welcome and Announcements

Chairman Pickett welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He is pleased to announce that Jennifer Dahl is the new Fiscal Manager. Jennifer is in training today and could not be present, however; she should be present at the next meeting.

Beneficiary Forms

Chairman Pickett introduced DCP Plan Administrator, Brian Berghoff who requested committee feedback on how they handle the processing of Beneficiary forms. Majority of the employers make a copy for historical purposes and send the completed form to DRS directly. Others encourage members to send the form directly to DRS with no employer involvement. Due to time sensitivity, DRS recommend employers encourage members to mail their Beneficiary forms directly to DRS without employer involvement.

There are two forms, one for [Retirement System](#) and one for [DCP](#) for those who participate. We appreciate you encouraging members to keep their forms up-to-date. The form on file with DRS is used when a member or participant is deceased. DRS would also like employers to remind members they can view their beneficiary online through [DB Access](#), and to reiterate DCP forms are not the same as retirement forms.

School District & PEBB

Chairman Pickett introduced Kim Smith, Employer Services Manager. The HCA/DRS efficiency initiative teams work together to better serve common customers through the Efficiency Initiative Project. The customer focused Education and Outreach team is focused on improving communications to members about their health benefits after termination. There are over 200 school districts not actively covered by PEBB, however these members may be eligible for PEBB coverage at the time of retirement. The goal is to try to get the word out to these members more effectively about their options. HCA staff and Kim discussed PEBB coverage and policies at the last monthly Washington Association of School Business Officials WASBO meeting. They obtained feedback from the WASBO meeting and is requesting feedback from Employer Advisory Committee. The Education and Outreach team has comprised a draft document that will be posted on the web that references what happens to retirement and DCP accounts when member's leave employment. Once they've collected the feedback, they will finalize the document and post to the Member's section on the DRS web site and send an e-mail to employers.

Employer Web site

Chairman Pickett introduced Rachel Nesse, Special Projects Coordinator who demonstrated to the committee the redesign of the employer web site, the new look is now consistent with the rest of the DRS web site. The project team migrated over 500 pages of content. The redesign also added a consistent navigation function for all employer pages. To make this a truly functional site, DRS encourages the committee members to share their [feedback](#) by using the feedback link on the lower right hand side of the main employer page. The project team did not revise any of the content. All content changes identified have been summarized in document called the "PICkEL" (Post Implementation Content Employer List). The PICkEL has been transitioned to DRS Communications Staff from Employer Support Services and the Administrative Services Division will work with communications to review, prioritize and implement the content changes identified. Chairman Pickett complimented the Rachel, the project team, and ESS staff for their hard to work.

Distribution of Information

The PERS 2 member handbook has been revamped and currently is at the printer. The handbook has a whole new approach. It's been condensed into

three sections. Each section focuses on the stage in one's career. DRS is printing a small supply of handbooks, and encourages employers to direct their members to the online handbook, as the Internet always has the most current information. If an employer has members that do not have access to the Internet, employer can contact DRS and request a limited supply of hard copies. The next system and plan to be updated is SERS/TRS Plan 2. The handbook is currently under review with Plan Administrators.

Non-Educational annual statements will be available March 10th. DRS will be sending an e-mail to employers March 8th to remind members to sign on to DB Access to view their annual statements. LEOFF Plan 2 member annual statements will be mailed this year; however no mailing date is confirmed. DRS will send an e-mail to LEOFF employers at a later date.

Legislative Update

Chairman Pickett introduced Dave Nelsen, Legislative Services Manager. Today is day 39 of the 60 day session. Some pension bills have passed the legislative cutoffs and are still moving through the process. They are:

- HB 1545 Higher Education Retirement Plan, this bill provides eligible employees of the Higher Education Coordinating Board the ability to participate in the Higher Education Retirement Plan instead of the Public Employees' Retirement System.
- HB 1541 Past Part-Time Service Credit would allow certain educational employees in Plan 2 of PERS or SERS who worked half-time prior to 1987 to receive half-time service credit for that period.
- HB 2519 Duty Related Death Benefits. This bill impacts benefits provided to beneficiaries of police, firefighters and state patrol troopers who are killed in the line of duty, including the lump sum payment and the on-going monthly pension. Details about the various impacts of this bill are available on the [DRS web site](#).
- HB 1547 increases the \$150,000 lump-sum death benefit to \$214,000 (reflecting inflation since 1995, when the benefit was first established) for all the retirement systems but LEOFF Plan 2 and the WSPRS. This would be effective as of January 1, 2009.
- HB2492 Shared Leave for LEOFF Plan 2 Members allows shared leave to be treated as reportable compensation for all members of LEOFF Plan 2. Earnings can be used in the calculation of a member's benefit, and service credit will be earned according to hours reported. Currently, shared leave is reportable for state, K-12, and higher education employees, including those who are members of LEOFF Plan 2.
- HB 1679 Catastrophic Disability Medical Insurance allows pays the cost of medical insurance for members of LEOFF Plan 2 and the Washington

State Patrol Retirement System who are totally disabled in the line of duty, as that is defined in statute.

- HB 3013 CVEO Service Transfer to WSPRS gives active members of the Washington State Patrol Retirement System (WSPRS) the option to transfer into that system any Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) Plan 2 service credit earned while working as a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer. To qualify, the member must have become a commissioned officer on or before July 1, 2000.
- SB 6546 allows the State Fire Marshall to continue service in LEOFF if they have prior LEOFF service, rather than be reported in PERS

Two bills from last year moving through the legislature are

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- SB 5523 would grant Court Commissioners similar benefits within PERS as was provided to judges over the last three legislative sessions
- SB 2196 would allow PERS Plan 1 members and retirees who transferred LEOFF Plan 1 service into that system to use that transferred service to qualify for free military service credit within PERS Plan 1.

Summaries of all bills can be found on the [DRS web site](#), or you can contact [Dave Nelsen](#).

Open Discussion

Nancy Savage asked if DRS would implement a mechanism to inform employers when a member is deceased. DRS is not obligated to do so, therefore; hasn't devised a methodology for this.

Next meeting is May 20, 2010 at DRS.