



The Benefits Bulletin

Official Newsletter of the Oregon Educators Benefit Board

OEBB: A New Beginning

Letter from the Chair:

In this first edition of the Oregon Educators Benefit Board newsletter, you will find information about the work of the OEBB and how it will affect you.

You'll also find an introduction to the OEBB members, a tentative timeline for program implementation and simple ways to contact the Board should you ever have a question or comment.

This is a new beginning

and there is much to be done in the coming year as we prepare to offer benefit plans to school and education service districts on October 1, 2008.

As charged by the law that created the OEBB, we are making it our top priority to build a Board that seeks high-quality benefit plans from trusted providers to serve our members and their families.

Much has already been accomplished in the short time we have come together.

The initial OEBB staff have been brought on to help move this process forward, temporary operational rules have been drafted, and we are beginning to study comparability and quality of plans we hope to offer.

We also are developing an administrative model and communications procedures to serve our members and stakeholders.

In the coming months I hope you will help shape our work by attending an OEBB

meeting or contacting us to let us know your thoughts.

In doing so, I hope you will use this newsletter and the OEBB Web site, www.oregon.gov/das/oebb, as a trusted source for information about the progress we, as your Board, continue to make.

Sincerely,

Steve McNannay

Chair,
Oregon Educators Benefit Board

Interesting Points About The OEBB

- The OEBB will begin offering benefit plans on October 1, 2008.
- When fully implemented on October 1, 2010, the OEBB will serve about 165,000 people.
- The pool of Oregon school employees will make it the largest of its kind in the state.

About The Oregon Educators Benefit Board

The Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) was created to provide health, dental and other benefits for most of Oregon's school district and education service district employees (ESDs).

The Board was created with the signing of 2007 Senate Bill 426 on March 21. Because of the great concern about the state of the health care coverage

and the skyrocketing premiums being charged to school districts in Oregon, the creation of the OEBB was considered an emergency and the Board became effective from the moment the bill was signed.

The law establishes a statewide insurance pool for employees and

See 'ABOUT', page 3

Inside this issue:

Meet the Board	2
Some Frequently Asked Questions	3
About the OEBB, cont.	3
What Makes the Board Unique?	4
Timeline of Benefits	4
Contact Us	4

Members: Oregon Educators Benefit Board

Want to get to know your Oregon Educators Benefit Board members better? Then keep reading. The Oregon Educators Benefit Board is made up of 10 members, all appointed by the Governor.

To help you become better acquainted with those serving on the OEBC, all the members along with a brief biography of each is listed below. In coming months, we will be featuring members, providing background, but for now, every Board member is listed here.

Of the 10 members, two represent district boards; two represent district management; two represent nonmanagement district employees from the largest labor union; one member represents nonmanagement district employees from the second-largest labor union; one represents nonmanagement district employees not represented by labor organizations; and two have expertise in health policy or risk management. Board members serve four-year terms.

Two members representing district boards:

- Richard Clarke, Ph.D

Richard is Chief Human Resources Officer for the Portland Public Schools. Formerly, he was the president and CEO of Lincoln Child Center, a private non-profit behavioral health care company. Richard chairs an ongoing health care advisory committee and is a management trustee to the School District 1J Health and Welfare Trust.

- Ron Gallinat

Ron is the owner of Central Oregon Employee Benefits, LLC where he is a Consultant and Agent to employees for benefits. Ron has over 20 years of experience in benefits focusing on employer-sponsored insurance. Ron also is serving as a board member on the High Desert Education Service District Board.

Two members representing district management:

- Brett Yancey -- vice chair

Brett Brett is Director of

Budget and Financial Planning for Springfield Public Schools. Brett has also served as the Budget, Finance, and Accounting Supervisor for Roseburg Public Schools and the Business Manager for the Scio School District. Brett brings more than 10 years of experience in public education business management in school districts of varying sizes to the Board.

- Peter Tarzian, Ph.D

Peter is the superintendent of schools in the Falls City School District. Peter is also the Legislative Chair for the Oregon Small Schools Association and an elected board member on the Linn-Benton Lincoln ESD Board of Directors. Formerly, Peter was a community college administrator and an Oregon state representative.

Two members representing nonmanagement employees from the largest labor organization representing district employees – Oregon Education Association (OEA):

- Steve McNannay -- chair

Steve is Executive Director of OEA Choice Trust and principal advisor to the board of trustees. He has been involved in the administration and delivery of health care benefits for school employees in Oregon for the past 19 years.

- Thomas Husted

Tom is a consultant for the Beaverton Education Association. He is an active member of the Beaverton School District Insurance Committee who oversees all aspects of the health insurance program. Previously, Tom has been the Executive Director of the Education and Teachers Associations for Utah, North Carolina and Hawaii.

One member representing nonmanagement district employees from the second largest labor organization representing district employees – Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA):

- Victor Musial

Victor is the director of field operations at the Oregon School Employees Association. Victor has more than 20 years of experience as a labor relations professional

representing city, county, school district and private sector collective bargaining units in Oregon, Florida and Wisconsin.

One member representing nonmanagement district employees from a labor organization other than the largest or second largest labor organization representing district employees – AFT Faculty and Classified Federations at Portland Community College:

- Michael Cannarella

Michael is the labor relations specialist for AFT Faculty and Classified Federations at Portland Community College. Michael also is a member of and union representative on the labor management committee and the Joint Committee on Insurance Benefits at Portland Community College.

Two members with expertise in health policy or risk management:

- Mylia Christensen

Mylia is Assistant Director of Operations and Planning at Oregon Health and Science University's Center for Evidence-based Policy. Mylia was the first administrator for the Public Employees' Benefit Board, playing an integral part in combining the two benefit boards providing benefits for all State employees. She has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare administration and executive leadership positions.

- Alison Little, M.D., M.P.H

Alison is Medical Director for Oregon Health and Science University's Center for Evidence-based Policy. Previously, Alison served as the Medical Director for the Oregon Health Services Commission, Oregon Medical Assistance Program and Central Oregon Independent Health Services. Alison also was a family practice physician for several years.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Question? Answer.

The Oregon Educators Benefit Board understands that during this time of change there's going to be some uncertainty about what the future holds for school district and education service district employees benefit plans.

The OEBB begins offering plans on October 1, 2008.

Over the next few months, we will provide you with information to help you make informed decisions about the benefit plans that eventually will be offered through the OEBB, and explain the decisions made by Board members.

With that in mind, we have put together a list of the most frequently asked questions you may have about what the OEBB does, how they do it and why.

A complete list of questions and answers can be found on our Web site: www.oregon.gov/das/oebb. But here are a couple answers to questions we've

heard a lot in the past month or so.

If you have a question, we'd love to hear it. Feel free to send it to: OEBB.info@state.or.us.

What is the Oregon Educators Benefit Board?

The Oregon Educators Benefit Board administers the newly created statewide insurance pool for employees and eligible retirees of Oregon school districts and education service districts.

The Board was created when the 2007 Legislature passed Senate Bill 426. The

OEBB will provide oversight and management of the insurance pool, design the benefit plans and contract with insurance carriers to deliver benefits to school district employees beginning October 1, 2008.

Why was the Board created?

school districts money on health insurance. Savings is expected because the size of the pool will provide more buying power and administrative costs will be reduced by eliminating duplicated services.

Studies by several groups throughout the past decade indicate that by pooling insurance, potential savings can add up to millions of dollars annually, but only time will tell how much is actually saved through the pool.

Additionally, with the creation of the OEBB, the cost of healthcare affecting school districts is expected to slow because the Board will be better equipped to design and deliver a plan it sees as most beneficial to its members. The Board strives to educate members, encourage them to be more proactive in matters of preventive care, evidence-based health coverage, and providing members with increased awareness and education of health related topics.



The Board was created to offer school district and education service district employees and their dependents high-quality health, dental and other benefit plans at an affordable cost.

The intent of the bill was to put more money directly in Oregon's classrooms by saving

'ABOUT', from page 1

eligible retirees of Oregon's school districts and education service districts, with oversight and management of the pool performed by OEBB.

The OEBB changes the way K-12 school districts and education service districts provide benefits for their employees. Currently, about 197 school districts and 20 ESDs purchase plans for their own employees

independently, through one of two health plan trusts or through the OSEA. Under OEBB's authority, most of these education districts will now pool employees together to purchase healthcare and other benefits.

The OEBB will design, contract for and manage these benefit plans that the Board must have in place by October 1, 2008.

All participating school districts must participate in the pool by October 2010.

Governor Theodore Kulongoski appointed nominees for the 10-member Board on May 25, 2007; all of whom were confirmed by the Senate on June 13, 2007.

The first "informational" meeting was June 22, 2007, in Salem. The Board became an

official, acting body July 2, 2007, and has met twice a month since then.

Also, the initial administrative staff positions have been filled. And a plan has been created to ensure delivery of high-quality benefit plans to Oregon school and education service districts beginning October 1, 2008.

Why The Oregon Educators Benefit Board Is Unique

As the largest pooled benefit plan purchaser of its kind in the state, the Oregon Educators Benefit Board is unique because it has been charged with the task of providing health and other benefits to about 165,000 people by October 2010.

With a lot of work ahead of the Board and staff over the next year, we have developed a tentative timeline of benefit program inception that serves as a guideline to members. It outlines when decisions need to be made, plans selected, carriers chosen and plans announced.

The timeline also should give you a good idea of what's going on and when at the OEBB meetings.

If you would like to attend a meeting, voice your opinion or contact us about important plan decisions at the OEBB, we encourage you to use the timeline as a powerful reference tool and stay up-to-date as we move forward.

Plus, there's always more information at our Web site, www.oregon.gov/das/oebb, or you can e-mail us at: OEBB.info@state.or.us.

March 21, 2007

Senate Bill 426 signed by Governor Theodore Kulongoski creating the Oregon Educators Benefit Board

July 2007

OEBB established with the appointment of the 10 board members

Temporary rules established for powers of the Board and procurement and contracting for benefit plans and services

Consultant selected to assist the OEBB with both pre-implementation and ongoing activities

September - December 2007

Study comparability

Define program eligibility

Study administrative model and eligibility needs and options for filling those needs

Gathers and analyze data from the school districts. Prepare request for proposals (RFPs) for new benefit plans

Approve eligibility criteria of school district employees.

Develop permanent Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) for all divisions

Develop and approve benefit plan designs

Release all request for proposals (RFPs) for health,

dental, life/ disability, vision and long-term care plans

Approve administrative and operational model

January 2008

Approve Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) making the temporary operating rules permanent

February - April 2008

Request for proposal process closes; benefits plan selection begins.

Review submitted proposals for benefit plans

April - June 2008

Approve all benefit plans for October 1, 2008

Review benefit plan documents

May - August 2008

Districts participating in the OEBB plans as of October 1, 2008, trained to deliver benefits to receiving members

August - September 2008

Participating district employees enroll in the OEBB offered benefit plans for October 1, 2008 effective date

October 1, 2008

Participating district employees begin receiving benefits provided through OEBB

Simple Ways To Contact The OEBB

As the OEBB moves forward and decisions are made regarding the choosing of benefit plan providers, district phase-in timelines and administrative rules, we know you may have questions about how those changes may or may not affect you.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to contact us with your questions and comments, and to help you learn more about the OEBB.

As the OEBB moves closer to providing health and other benefits on October 1, 2008, and decisions are made about products and services, our Web site will become the front line for all information regarding the OEBB.

Any updates, developments, news and announcements will be posted on the Web first. However, that does not mean we do not want to hear from you. Feel free to contact us at:

E-mail: OEBB.info@state.or.us

Official Newsletter of the Oregon Educators Benefit Board

**775 Court Street SE
Salem, OR 97301**

Phone: (503) 378-4606

Fax: (503) 378-5832

Check us out on the Web:

www.oregon.gov/das/oebb

OREGON EDUCATORS
OEBB
BENEFIT BOARD