

# THE BENEFITS BULLETIN

May 2008

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON EDUCATORS BENEFIT BOARD



## Letter From the Chair

### You're Watching, We're Listening

The decision to limit the number of carriers that will offer OEBB plans was based on a number of criteria. The plans selected: 1) meet cost and plan design comparability requirements; 2) provide a choice of carriers with broad access to providers while maximizing administrative efficiencies and reducing administrative costs; 3) provide integrated care; and 4) are committed to innovation and providing OEBB with access to data that will allow the OEBB to optimize current and future plan management.

We understand an insurance carrier change is never easy and provider access and availability throughout Oregon, surrounding states and elsewhere is very important.

We will be distributing much more information as we move toward open enrollment and the plan implementation process under the OEBB program.

There are still many things to decide and many more questions to answer. From the responses we have been getting re-

cently, we know many of you have some questions and I am grateful you are letting us know your thoughts. Please, keep your questions and comments coming. Without your insight and guidance, it would be a challenging and difficult journey for the Board through October 1 and beyond.

On another note, let me express my gratitude for my peer OEBB Board members. Making it through the carrier interview and selection process took a great deal

of time, yet the Board's selection committee remained dedicated to the task of finding the best proposers while remaining comparable in cost and plan design.

I'd like to share a little information about the RFP selection process; a by the numbers sort of look.

- Proposals were reviewed to ensure they were responsive and met the minimum requirements. We received a total of 30 proposals that were determined as responsive and met the minimum requirements.

**Continued on page 2**

## THE BOARD WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As OEBB moves closer to offering benefits to its members on Oct. 1, 2008, the Board would like to begin hearing stories from you and your districts.

Perhaps you or someone in your district is putting on a health fair, making an impact in the health and lives of his or her peers, starting a new wellness program such as a walking club or supporting a cause such as diabetes or breast cancer awareness and would like to generate some extra buzz.

If so, feel free to send your stories, event photos or event listings for inclusion in *The Benefits Bulletin* and on OEBB's Web site.

The Board is here to serve you, and wants to be a part of your district's activities, and do what it can to support your health, wellness and well being.

If you have a story, event or photo you would like to submit, contact Scott Rupp at [scott.e.rupp@state.or.us](mailto:scott.e.rupp@state.or.us).

We know you are watching us and listening to the decisions the Board is making.

After releasing the carriers and then the rates, two of the biggest decisions the Board has made to this point, many of you began to let us know that the work we are doing at OEBB is very important.

Believe me, speaking on behalf of the other nine Board members, the decisions we make as OEBB are not made lightly and we think we are doing our best to keep you in mind.

Though not all of us on the Board spend our working lives at the district level, all of us understand the importance high-quality health coverage has on your lives.

With that said, please allow me to explain some of the thinking that went into the Board's decision to select the carriers it did.

# Opting In, Choosing Plans and Contacting OEGB

By **SCOTT E. RUPP**  
**Communications**  
**Coordinator**

The Oregon Educators Benefit Board released plan rates on May 15 for medical, dental, vision and orthodontia plans for the 2008-09 year.

Following the release of OEGB's rates and the announcement that the Oregon School Boards Association will no longer offer health benefits after Sept. 30, 2008, OEGB staff have received many questions about the future of benefits for school and education service district employees in Oregon.

Districts not required to enter the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEGB) on October 1, 2008, may now elect benefit plans offered by OEGB to serve their employee's benefit needs.

If your district is now thinking of joining OEGB, your letter of participation *and* the plan selections are to be returned to OEGB by June 30.

Be assured that the OEGB will respond to your questions and help members during the plan selection process and open enrollment.

See "contacting OEGB" for further contact information and the new toll-free number.

## Opting In to OEGB

Districts wishing to opt

in to OEGB before they are mandated, simply need to inform the Board in writing of its decision to do so by June 30. The letter must be signed by a district official. Please include the district name and number, the employee group(s) wishing to opt in and an estimated number of benefit eligible employees in the letter.

Opt in letters can be sent to Scott Rupp, Communications Coordinator, 1225 Ferry St. SE, Salem, OR 97301.

## Choosing OEGB Benefit Plans

OEGB will post a benefit plan selection form on the Web site. The district will identify plan selections for each participating employee group. The form will allow up to four medical plan selections, up to three dental plan selections and one vision plan selection. The Kaiser vision plan may be selected in addition to the other vision plan selection if districts are in the Kaiser service area and offer a Kaiser medical plan.

Benefit selection forms must be signed and mailed back to OEGB by June 30 for the plan selections to be effective.

Employee groups selecting to add the orthodontia option to dental plans must include them in all dental offered.

Benefit selection forms should be mailed to the Oregon Educators Benefit Board, 1225 Ferry St. SE, Salem, OR 97301 by no later than June 30, 2008.

## Contacting OEGB

In a continued effort to assist future members of OEGB with their transition to the new benefit program beginning October 1, 2008, the OEGB is pleased to announce the addition of OEGB's new Benefit Analyst Team and toll-free telephone number for members and district personnel.

The Benefit Analyst Team is made up of analysts that will be dedicated to answering members' questions about OEGB plans, plan rates, covered services and exclusions, providing guidance about open enrollment beginning August 15 and working with district employees to help them navigate OEGB's online benefit administration system, MyOEGB.

Additionally, the team will provide assistance to benefit administrators at districts throughout the state as they begin to work in the benefit management system and will become the key contacts for districts needing assistance with the migration of data, maintenance of the benefit records and day-to-day operations.

**Call toll-free:**  
**(888) 4MY-OEGB**  
**(888) 469-6322**

Letter, from page 1

- Watson Wyatt (WW) scored the questionnaires submitted as part of the RFP. The categories that were scored included: cost (rates, other financial aspects and reporting capabilities), network, access to services, customer service, claims administration (both infrastructure and response standards were considered), account administration, quality, and security.

- The Selection Committee reviewed 45 three inch binders and each member spent more than 80 hours reading, interviewing, and scoring the RFPs.

- The Selection Committee interviewed 22 proposers over a five day period, who met the minimum requirements. These included medical, pharmacy, disease management, health & wellness, dental, and vision proposers.

- The Selection Committee reviewed and scored the Supplemental Questions for each of the proposers interviewed.

- WW finalized scoring of the RFP responses and added the scores from the interviews, supplemental questions, and reference checks into the RFP scores.

- The Selection Committee directed WW to negotiate with proposers identified in option packages.

Please stay tuned and let us know your thoughts. We're listening.

Steve McNannay  
Chair,  
OEGB

## OREGON EDUCATORS BENEFIT BOARD SELECTS CARRIERS TO OFFER BENEFITS

### Board to begin preparing for district phase-in and open enrollment in August

At its April 24 meeting, the Oregon Educators Benefit Board announced the Apparent Successful Proposers that will offer medical, dental, vision, pharmacy, disease management and health and wellness benefits to OEBB members beginning Oct. 1, 2008.

Following this action, the Board began communicating with districts to let them know the carriers that will be providing OEBB plans, a key piece of information that districts and employee groups have been waiting for since the insurance pool was created in 2007.

“One of the most important and monumental decisions made by OEBB up to this point, the selection of plan carriers allows us to begin moving forward with the process of collaborating more closely with the districts, carriers and future members of OEBB to ensure a smooth transition to OEBB this October,” Steve McNannay, OEBB chair said.

This decision by OEBB completes the selection process that has been in the works since January when the Requests for Proposals were released, and allows the Board to begin preparing for district phase-in, open enrollment and member education.

“The Board is anxious to have reached this point and looks forward to working more closely with our future members to fulfill the obligation we have been charged: provide high-quality benefits that are comparable to what districts currently have.

Some of the key attributes of the Apparent Successful Proposers are innovation and quality,” McNannay said.

“The Board is extremely confident it has met and perhaps even exceeded that charge. We look forward to working with the carriers to design programs that will deliver evidence-based medical care and preventive services that improve the health of OEBB members.”

Contracts with the Apparent Successful Proposers will be negotiated and finalized over the coming weeks and plan rates have been released and are posted on the OEBB Web site.

The selected proposers include:

#### **Medical/Pharmacy/Disease Management/Health & Wellness:**

Statewide:

- Providence Health Plans for plans 1 and 2
- ODS Health Plans for plans 3 through 9

Regional:

- Kaiser Permanente for plans 1 and 2 in the Kaiser service area.



**Brett Yancey, OEBB vice chair, listens to Tracie Murphy of ODS Health Plan speak about administration procedures on May 13.**

#### **Dental**

Statewide:

- Oregon Dental Services (ODS) for dental plans 1 through 6
- Willamette Dental Group for dental plans 7 and 8

Regional:

- Kaiser for plans 7 and 8 in the the Kaiser service area (available only to members who elect Kaiser Permanente Medical).

#### **Vision**

Statewide:

- ODS Health Plans for plans 1 through 5

Regional:

- Kaiser for plan 5 in the Kaiser service area (available only to members who elect Kaiser Permanente Medical).

The Board approved the applications of nine additional applicants to OEBB's Outreach Network at its April 24 meeting in Salem.

Currently the Network has 26 members from 20 districts across the state. Members receive the latest information about OEBB and help disseminate information about OEBB to their colleagues and peers in the districts.

OEBB is always accepting new applications. If you, or someone you know, have a question or would like to apply to the Outreach Network, please contact Scott Rupp at [scott.e.rupp@state.or.us](mailto:scott.e.rupp@state.or.us) or call (503) 378-5353.

### The newest Outreach Network Members include:

- Julie Ankeny, Junction City School District
- Kay Beck, Rainier School District
- Debbie Bell, Corvallis School District
- Jill Conant, Nyssa School District
- Cindy Dix, Culver School District
- Teri McCoy, Pendleton School District
- Michael Nelson, Pleasant Hill School District
- Lisa Shogren, Greater Albany School District
- Linda Tibbles, Hillsboro School District

OEBB's information can be used in district publications or Web sites.

Want to use OEBB's newsletter content to help spread the Board's message in your district? All of OEBB's information from the newsletter and Web site is available for use in your publications, Web sites and other communications offerings. If you would like to use any of the information, please contact Scott Rupp, OEBB Communications Coordinator at (503) 378-5353 or via e-mail at [scott.e.rupp@state.or.us](mailto:scott.e.rupp@state.or.us).

Official newsletter of the Oregon Educators Benefit Board

1225 Ferry St. SE  
Salem, OR 97301

Phone : (888) 4MY-OEBB  
(888) 469-6322  
Fax: (503) 378-5832

Check us out on the Web:  
[www.oregon.gov/das/oebb](http://www.oregon.gov/das/oebb)

## Administrative Rules Advisory

### Group Forms

#### By GLENN BALY Policy Coordinator

In March, OEBB formed an Administrative Rules Advisory Group (ARAG) to assist OEBB staff in developing administrative rules that establish policies and requirements in a number of areas.

The formation of ARAG was part of OEBB's overall goal to design programs and policies that effectively meet the needs of districts and members

In forming the advisory group, OEBB chose representatives from districts and ESDs of varying size and locations. Members also were chosen based on their experience and involvement in the areas of human

resources and financial systems. The members of the Administrative Rules Advisory Group assist OEBB in developing administrative rules by reviewing and providing advice and feedback. The feedback focuses on current practices at the district level, the potential impact of drafted OEBB rules on districts and the rule's overall clarity. OEBB staff and the Board then consider the advice and feedback and may make necessary revisions to the administrative rules prior to them moving into the formal rulemaking process or as permanent rules.

It is OEBB's intent to that the advice from the group covers the spectrum

of perspectives, processes and experiences throughout Oregon.

ARAG met for the first time in March to review OEBB's proposed enrollment rules and will meet throughout the summer to review other proposed draft rules.

For more information on the advisory group and OEBB's administrative rules, contact Glenn Baly, Policy/Program Development Coordinator, at (503) 378-4960.

#### Participating Members and Districts

- Susan Summers & Sue Christenson, David Douglas SD
- Virginia Albrecht

- Dufur SD
- Jackie McLaughlin, Eugene SD
- Olivia Myers, Fern Ridge SD
- Pat Baldini, Klamath Falls City Schools
- Toni Johnson, North Bend SD
- Cheri Siddoway, Ontario SD
- Mary Cramer, Paisley SD
- Camila Monagon, Portland Public Schools
- Cathy Warhank, Redmond SD
- Judith Robb, Region 18 ESD
- Kim McKinney, Sherman County SD
- Patti Miller, South Umpqua SD
- Debbie Ellis, Tillamook SD
- Mendy Clark, Union SD
- Denise Lapp, Woodburn SD