Consumer Directed Employer Rate Setting Board

July 13, 2026
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Online or Onsite	Name	Role	*Voting Member	^Advisory Member	Notes
Online	Bledsoe, Ben	CDE	*		
Onsite	Brannan, Pam	RSB Staff			
	Cleveland, Annette	Senator		^	
Onsite	Declet, Sonya	RSB Staff			
Online	Erickson, Eric	Licensed HCA		^	
Online	Gantala, Mike	Int. or Dev. Disabilities Org.			
Onsite	Glickman, Adam	SEIU	*		
Onsite	Goodfellow, Gwen	Home Care Worker			
Online	Harris, Paul	Senator			
Onsite	Hollimon, Cynthia	OFM	*		
Online	Raske, Martha	State Council on Aging		^	
Onsite	Rector, Bea	DSHS	*		
Onsite	Schlesselman, Diana	RSB Staff			
Online	Schmick, Joe	Representative			
Onsite	Strange, Cheryl	Board Chair		^	
Online	Tharinger, Steve	Representative		^	
Online	Williams, Courtney	Phys. Disabilities Org.		^	

Public attendees (Note: not all attendees present for entire meeting.)

Robyn Williams, OFM, Director Budget Division
Eli Taylor Goss, Washington State Budget and Policy Center
Dr. Katie Baird, Professor of Economics, University of Washington Tacoma
Sterling Harders, SEIU 775 President
Saoirse Douthat, Caregiver
Sophia Hill, Caregiver

AGENDA MINUTES

Topic	Discussion Highlight	Action items/Outcomes
Welcome	Chair	Welcome by Board Chair to all attendees.
Approval of Minutes for June 24, 2026	Chair and Facilitator	Vote of yes by the voting board members. 4 Ayes*, 0 Nays. Minutes approved.
Old Business	Chair and Facilitator	The video we could not see the last meeting. Link was shared in last meeting minutes. Presentation by DOH. DOH will be here on August 5, not July 15.
Client Survey		
Client Survey Results & Discussion	**Sonya Declet**, DSHS, presented on the Client Survey Results. Board Discussion Board member shared comments on oversight and supervision caregiving. Also on Developmental Disabilities and shifts in level of need impacting service. Board member noted the work done on the employer survey and the client survey regarding improvements including hiring and associated challenges.	
State Budget		

State of the State/Budget Parameters & Discussion	**Robyn Williams,** Director Budget Division, presented on the 2027-29 Operating Budget Overview. Board Questions: Q: Request to provide clarity on the nursing home (SNF) and home and community services going in different directions. A: Two things: people like to be in a home setting and it's more cost effective for care. Board member shared that it's an intentional policy by the Leg and department. Q: With the projected escalated numbers of elderly, do we anticipate the trend to continue? A: Don't know if the percentage will change, but if overall population increases then we will likely see uptick for in-home and facility care. Board member shared some observations on nursing homes and higher age proportions thus impacting types of care. Q: Is there analysis for added costs if relative distribution did shift for nursing homes. A: This could be calculated. Board member shared more information about stats on in-home and nursing home care. Also shared observations on the benefits of having a revenue forecast three time a year and continuing to watch adjustments. Q: What happens as people deplete their funds from the WA Cares lifetime benefit. A: There are projections of some reduction in need for Medicaid while the funds are being used. The forecast council made a decrease in caseload projections this biennium based on these projections/assumption. This assumption is included in the slide (15). Board member shared information about OFM's memo to state offices regarding looking at budget and growth. Robyn Williams shared that OFM issues budget instructions in June of each year. This year they anticipate a challenging budget due to increased costs. They are running scenarios. They can project spending and looked at the last five biannual budgets and range. Currently looking at structural changes that be needed and associated programs and impacts. Q: How are the budget and the gaps balanced with the need to include investments to the home care workforce, regarding nursing home, home, and community services caseloads.	**Action Item**: Added cost if more people using nursing home services instead of in-home services.

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	A: There is a lot of movement between costs and impacts to services. It's part of conversation when talking about reductions. Q: How does the state budget reserves compare to other states? And will a lack of reserves affect the state's bond rating? A: Not sure about state ranking. 2027 is the low point for the reserves. Shared Governor's focus and feedback on reserves.	
Break		
Budget		
Budget and Policy Center & Discussion	**Dr. Katie Baird** and **Eli Taylor Goss** presented on Home Care Workers: Why Adequate Pay is essential. Board Questions: Q: Where does the state fall in terms of percentages and income tax? A: Don't know but can get this information. Q: Is the Climate Commitment Act included in the 8%. A: Yes. That average includes information about all taxes, including at local level. Board member shared it would be helpful to have the data used to calculate and a comparison with other states in this situation. Katie Baird spoke to tax system in WA state being out of synch with our economy and reference to how it raises funds. Part is the lack of income tax along with other considerations. Q: What is the cost of living in comparison to other states? Board member read that we're 4 or 5th most expensive state to live in. A: Not sure where Washington ranks but it speaks to wealth and cost of housing. Board member observed this has a lot to do with policy choices along with associated considerations including taxes. Eli Taylor Goss spoke to support to the aging population, rural communities, and other population in relation to equity outcomes.	**Action item:** Follow up on getting information on percentages and income tax.
Lunch		

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Union Presentation		
Union Rate Proposal & Discussion	**Sterling Harders** presented an SEIU 775 Summary. Caregiver **Saoirse Douthat** presented on cost of living and wages and inflation. Also the needs and responsibilities associated with caregiving. Shared there is a need for wages to keep up with the needs of caregiving. Caregiver **Sophia Hill** shared her personal health considerations and experiences with insurance and cost of daily living. Issues with not making enough to cover the costs of health care to care for themselves as well as others and being able to afford daily needs. Board Questions: Board member shared appreciation of the difficulty of the work. Q: For retirement, is there a way of calculating if there were a way to correct disparity for parent providers and is there a way to look at the billing pattern for use of mileage. What is the utilization pattern and what percentage of IPs claim the full monthly amount? A: This can be looked at by SEIU and CDWA. Board member shared there may be data on how many claim how much as this is a considerations in calculating cost. This is something they could look into providing. Board member shared his experience with parent caregiver and mileage usage and calculations. Also shared needs and dependencies on what is associated with mileage and traveling to where is needed. Board member shared possibility of providing the data in increments or categories. Board member suggested a policy for the state using an exemption process for claiming more mileage. About 22% of IPs claim the max. Board Chair shared that the goal is trying to determine the need and the cost of the need. Determining internal controls. How to individualize care based on need. SEIU can get the number of hours for parent providers on the wage scale for retirement question.	**Action item**: SEIU can look into information on billing patterns for use of mileage. **Action item:** SEIU can look into number of hours for parent providers and associated wage scale.
Public Comment		

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Public Comment	Chair Board member thanked everyone for everything they have brought forward during the meetings. Board Chair shared that the Home Care Agency will be here July 15 along with DSHS and topics to be covered. The day may end at about Noon. DSHS shared we will need to come to a vote by the end of August, ideally on August 31. If that is not done, then the Board Chair will decide the labor rate.	
Adjourn	Chair	Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.