Consumer Directed Employer Rate Setting Board

August 5, 2026
9am – 12pm

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Online or Onsite	Name	Role	*Voting Member	^Advisory Member	Notes
Onsite	Bledsoe, Ben	CDE	*		
Onsite	Brannan, Pam	RSB Staff			
Online	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		^	
	Harris, Paul	Senator		^	
Onsite	Hollimon, Cynthia	OFM	*	^	
Online	Raske, Martha	State Council on Aging		^	
Onsite	Rector, Bea	DSHS	*		
Onsite	Schlesselman, Diana	RSB Staff			
	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.)

AGENDA MINUTES

Topic	Discussion Highlight	Action items/Outcomes
Welcome	Chair	Welcome by Board Chair to all attendees.
Approval of Minutes for July 15, 2026	Chair and Facilitator	Vote of yes by the voting board members. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.
Old Business	Chair and Facilitator CDE Staff reviewed follow up items from last meeting. Still waiting for info on income tax percentages. Information on the follow-up items can be found in the August 5, 2026, Briefing Book. - What is the estimated added cost if more people use nursing home services instead of in-home services? **In Briefing Book.** - Where does the state fall in terms of percentages and income tax among other states that don't have an income tax? **Info has been requested.** - Billing patterns for mileage usage and number of hours provided by parent providers and the associated wage scale. **In Briefing Book.** - Dampening trend in DDA caseload forecast also? **No, the dampening was not applied to the DDA caseload forecast in the manner it was applied to the HCLA forecast.** - Information on the DDA wait list. **View the Caseload Forecast Council website. https://cfc.wa.gov/long-term-care/total-waiver-request**. Chair opened to questions and comments. There were none.	
Board Survey	CDE Program Team CDE Staff shared that a survey will be sent to the Board members after the last 2026 Board meeting asking for their feedback on production and operations of the 2026 Rate Setting Board. The survey will be open for two weeks. Their feedback will be collected and will be used to help guide production for the 2028 Rate Setting Board.	

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	Board member shared information on emergency management and assistance that is being provided in response to the Spokane area fires and other fires around the state. Board Chair shared a reminder of the importance of the work and many people impacted in general work and by emergency situations.	
Rate Discussion		
State Proposal	**Cynthia Hollimon** presented the State's rate proposal. Discussion Board member shared her experience on making ends meet and the difficulty of the budget news presentation and making ends meet. Also shared additional experience with her mother's needs for caregiving and health insurance. Board member shared his observations on how there are many others dealing with needs and the state's need to work to make things better for us. Board member acknowledged the work of the state. Commented on the state's proposal and associated freezing. Spoke to the impact of budget shifts on families and the human impact. Shared an observation on the impact of 5% and spoke to inflationary increase impact and the impact to purchasing power with a small shift. In-room participant commented on the request for caregivers as essential workers to work without a raise for two years. Impact to being unable to take vacation time as a caregiver and that caregivers deserve to have their wages increased. Board member shared recognition of the significant budget challenge and want to make a point that equality is not equity. Spoke to some of the history with previous administrations and raises, working with equity, and acknowledging the work of home caregivers and affordability of services. Want to make the point that the current approach is not equitable in terms of spending. Board member requested a review of the presented numbers and requested an offline discussion around parity and how it is determined.	

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	Q: Question about the assumptions in the labor rate about mileage and future assumptions. A: This is current numbers. Board chair shared that the news is difficult and we will use this time to see what we can do better and where we can do things differently. We will take a break and return at 10:30.	
Rate Discussion	All Rate discussion combined with the State Proposal presentation and discussion.	
Public Comment	Chair In-room attendee shared her experience with caregiving and the cost of insurance. Shared the need to put costs into caregiving. Basic expenses rise and so should wages and benefits. Thanked the people serving on the Board and their service. In-room attendee shared her experience of caregiving for her daughter and the need to get a second job. Issues with losing jobs due to the needs of caring for her daughter. Shared experience of the raise from two years ago and difficulties of living in unsafe neighborhoods and the need for affordable healthcare. Asked for a raise in wages to improve living conditions. In-room attendee shared observations on wages and associated issues. With no wage increases for two years, she will be forced to find other employment which will impact the life of her family member she cares for. Asked what should happen if raises do not happen. In-room attendee shared her experience of caregiving for a client. Shared that caregivers do not get paid for all the work they do and the problems with finding caregivers. Shared issues with trying to find another caregiver for her client and difficulty because there are not other caregivers to do the work. It's not an easy job as there is physical and emotional burden. In-room attendee shared her disappointment with a proposal of a zero-wage increase. The proposal affects	

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	current and incoming caregivers who care for the most vulnerable people. She has had to get a second job and is finding will have to take the higher paying job and will have to give up the job caring for her father. In-room attendee shared her thanks for the work. With zero wage increase and raising prices, how will they be able to survive? How will they be able to find caregivers to cover the work that needs to be done. If clients do not have care, they will end up in nursing homes, resulting in higher costs to the state. Needs help because she loves her clients and the job. In-room attendee thanked the Board for their work. Healthcare planning is important to her. Asked that the Board think about the work that caregivers do to take care of others' loved ones. Need to raise wages now so that caregivers don't leave for other jobs and so that it's an attractive career for future caregivers. In-room attendee is a caregiver for adult son. Shared the issues of caregiving and her experience of how she will care for him and the associated needs for care and keeping him healthy along with associated costs and stresses. In-room attendee shared her experience of caring for her son. Is a caregiver and has been an Individual provider for many people. Feels fortunate that she is able to care for others. Shared issues with expenses and the need for cost-of-living wages and to recognize the work is valuable. There are people who want to be caregivers and cannot due the wages. Shared observations on loneliness and a company that provides robotic-type care--and asked about how we can help provide in-person care options which is vital to life. In-room attendee shared that many of us at some point will need care. Asked who we want to provide that care. Board member shared that we need to realize that caregivers have a lot of responsibilities. It's devastating to hear what so many have shared in their testimonials. Many people have to live on food stamps. There has to be a better way to fix it. Board members shared that the most important part of these meetings is the storytelling. Important for us to hear	

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	and get feedback. Question of how these stories can continue to be shared to a larger audience. Board member shared that he is involved with a self-advocacy and leadership group and the Board is welcome to attend. Board members will speak before the next meeting on ways to share these stories. Board member shared that the work toward gaining respect in their careers and sharing their stories is very meaningful to the process. Board Chair observed that there is a need to continue the conversation. The work is in helping the decision makers understand what's at stake. The next meeting is August 24.	
Adjourn	Chair Comment in the chat shared that one of our Board members, Martha Raske, will no longer be with us during these meetings. Board member replacement appointment awaiting confirmation from the Governor's office.	Meeting adjourned at 11:22am.