VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

PENSION & HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE

OPEN SESION

ROBERT F. CARLSON AUDITORIUM

LINCOLN PLAZA NORTH

400 P STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 8:00 A.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER LICENSE NUMBER 10063

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Ms. Rob Feckner, Chairperson
- Mr. Ramon Rubalcava, Vice Chairperson
- Ms. Margaret Brown
- Mr. Henry Jones
- Mr. David Miller
- Ms. Eraina Ortega
- Ms. Theresa Taylor
- Ms. Shawnda Westly
- Ms. Betty Yee, represented by Ms. Karen Greene-Ross

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Ms. Fiona Ma, represented by Mr. Frank Ruffino
- Ms. Lisa Middleton
- Ms. Stacie Olivares
- Mr. Jason Perez

STAFF:

- Ms. Marcie Frost, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Matt Jacobs, General Counsel
- Dr. Donald Moulds, Chief Health Director
- Mr. Anthony Suine, Deputy Executive Officer

APPEARANCES CONTINUED
STAFF:
Ms. Marta Green, Chief, Health Plan Research and Administration Division
Ms. Pam Hopper, Committee Secretary

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: It's the time we call our Pension and Health Committee meeting to order. The first order of business will be to call the roll.

Ms. Hopper, please

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Good morning.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Rob Feckner?

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Good morning

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Margaret Brown?

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Present.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Henry Jones?

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: David Miller?

COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Eraina Ortega?

COMMITTEE MEMBER ORTEGA: Here.

18 COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Ramon Rubalcava?

VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: Present. Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Theresa Taylor?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Shawnda Westly?

COMMITTEE MEMBER WESTLY: Present.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: And do I have Karen

25 Greene-Ross?

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Chair, we're waiting for Karen Greene-Ross to come on board.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: All right. We'll give her another couple of minutes before we move forward.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Thank you.

Good morning, everyone.

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CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Good morning, Pam.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Good morning.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Mr. Chair, Karen Greene-Ross is trying to log in, so it should only be a couple more minutes.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Very good. Thank you.

Well, since we only have one item on open before we go into closed, let's just continue on, and Ms. Greene-Ross can catch up with us.

So again, good morning, Board members -Committee members. I do want to remind everyone that if
you're not speaking, please make sure you mute your
device. That will help with the background noise and any
possible distortion we may have. We learned a few things
yesterday as we went through the process.

So the next order of business is Agenda Item 2, the election of the Pension and Health Committee Chair and Vice Chair. For the election of Chair, I'm going to turn the microphone over to Mr. Rubalcava.

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VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: Thank you, Rob.
                                                           I
1
    will now entertain nominations for Committee -- Committee
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    Chair for the Pension and Health Benefits Committee.
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             Anybody? Oh, I guess I have to read the chat,
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    right, or something is going to say something.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Hi.
                                            This is Theresa
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7
    Taylor.
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: Good morning,
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    Theresa.
             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: I'd like to nominate
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   Rob Feckner for Chair of Pension and Health Committee.
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: We have a nomination
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    for Rob Feckner as Chair of the Committee. Do I hear
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    another nomination?
             Do I hear another nomination?
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             Rob Feckner for Chair.
             Rob Feckner for chair.
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             Another nomination?
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             I guess nominations are closed. Do I have a
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   motion to elect Rob Feckner as Chair of the Pension and
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   Health Benefits Committee?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: I make the motion.
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: The motion has been
   made.
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COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: I'll second.

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VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: I hear a second from David Miller.
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I guess we nominate -- I guess the nominations are closed and that means Mr. Rob Feckner, you're elected, and congratulations.

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: I think we have to 7 vote, don't we?

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: I think we have to have Ms. Hopper call out the names.

VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: Okay.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Pam.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Ms. Hopper?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Pam.

14 COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Margaret Brown, what

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16 COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: The vote is on Rob

17 | Feckner as Chair of the Committee.

18 VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: It was the only

19 | Nomination.

20 COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: I'll proceed with

21 | the vote and come back to Margaret.

Henry Jones?

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Yes.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: David Miller?

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Eraina Ortega?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER ORTEGA: Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Ramon Rubalcava?
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA:
                                          Yes.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Theresa Taylor?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Yes.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Shawnda Westly?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER WESTLY: Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Karen Greene-Ross?
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             ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER GREENE-ROSS: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: And Margaret Brown?
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             Mr. Chair, we are not getting response from
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   Margaret.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: I believe I said aye.
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15
    Sorry.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Okay.
                                                  Thank you.
             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: Thank you.
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             So I think that's it. So, Mr. Rob Feckner,
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   congratulations, you can have the chair back.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Thank you, Mr. Rubalcava.
   And thank you, fellow Committee members, I appreciate the
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   vote of confidence. We're going to move on with the
   election of Vice Chair.
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             So I now open the nominations for Vice Chair of
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   the Pension and Health Committee.
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COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Mr. Feckner?
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Ms. Taylor.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: I'd like to nominate
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   Mr. Rubalcava for Vice Chair.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Thank you.
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             Any further nominations for the office of Vice
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   Chair?
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             Any further nomination for the office of Vice
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   Chair?
             Third and final time, any further nominations for
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   the office of Vice Chair?
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             Seeing none. I will entertain a motion to elect
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   Mr. Rubalcava as Vice Chair of the Pension and Health
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   Committee.
             COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: So moved.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Second.
             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: It's been moved and
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   seconded.
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             Ms. Hopper, please call the roll.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Margaret Brown?
             COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Aye. Can you hear me?
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Yes.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Thank you.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Henry Jones?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Aye.
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COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: David Miller?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Eraina Ortega?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER ORTEGA:
                                      Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER:
                                          Ramon Rubalcava?
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA:
                                           Yes.
 6
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER:
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                                           Theresa Taylor?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Yes.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Shawnda Westly?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER WESTLY: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Karen Greene-Ross
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    for Betty Yee?
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             ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER GREENE-ROSS: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Thank you.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Thank you.
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    Congratulations, Mr. Rubalcava. You're now Vice Chair of
    the Pension and Health Committee.
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: Thank you and thank
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    everybody for your confidence.
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             Okay. At this point, we are going to recess the
    open session and move into closed session. Since we have
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    to change certain procedures here and moving into this
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    closed session, I first want to say that if anybody is on
    the line, any of the stakeholders, et cetera that are
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waiting for the next open session, if you're looking for

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Item 5b, the delegated authority, since the Investment Committee delegated authority is coming back in June, we went through that yesterday, we're also going to pull Item 5b, the Pension and Health Committee delegated authority and bring that back at the same time in June. So we're taking 5b off the agenda for this month.
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With that, we are going to go to closed session. Sometime it takes a little longer for others to get on, so let's be patient until everybody is signed on.

We are not leaving the open session. See you all on the other side.

(Off record: 8:11 a.m.)
(Thereupon the meeting recessed
into closed session.)
(Thereupon the meeting reconvened
open session.)

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(On record: 1:00 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Good afternoon, everyone.

It's 1:00 o'clock, our bewitching hour. We welcome everyone back from the closed session and for our audience, we welcome you as well. We're going to continue on with our open session.

The first order of business will be Item 3, approval of the April 21st Pension and Health Committee meeting timed agenda.

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COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Move approval.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Who moved that. Wave,
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   please.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN:
                                     Brown.
             COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: Second.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Ms. Brown.
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             Motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Miller.
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             If you're not going to be talking, please mute
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   your microphone, so we can avoid the feedback.
             So we're ready for a roll call vote, Ms. Hopper.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Mr. Chair -- Mr.
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   Chair, this is Pam.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Yes, ma'am.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: We'll need to do a
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   roll call for the timed agenda.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Correct. I'm waiting for
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   you to call the roll.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Margaret Brown?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Henry Jones?
             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: You're muted.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: David Miller?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Eraina Ortega?
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COMMITTEE MEMBER ORTEGA: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Ramon Rubalcava?
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA:
                                          Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER:
                                          Theresa Taylor?
             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Ave.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Shawnda Westly?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER WESTLY: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Karen Greene-Ross
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    for Betty Yee?
             ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER GREENE-ROSS: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Thank you, Mr.
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   Chair.
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Did we get Ms. Taylor?
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             Very good. Okay. Moving on to Agenda Item 4,
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   the executive report, Mr. Moulds, Mr. Suine. Who's first?
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             CHIEF HEALTH DIRECTOR MOULDS: Sorry. Am I --
    I'm unmuted. Sorry about that one.
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             Why don't I go ahead and start. Good morning,
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   Mr. Chair, members of the Committee. Don Moulds, Chief
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    Health Director. I'd like to congratulate Mr. Feckner and
   Ms. Rubalcava on being selected as Chair and Vice Chair of
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   the Committee. Our teams look forward to working with
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   both of you again this year.
             Before I begin, I think it's important to
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    recognize the crisis that we find ourselves in. Over the
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weekend, California crossed a distressing threshold with COVID-19, over a thousand Californian lives have been lost to COVID and more than 30,000 cases have been confirmed.

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The hopeful news is that in California, as you know, we're doing an incredible job collectively of flattening the curve. And so far, we've escaped the kind of devastation that's happening right now in places like New York. Social distancing and staying-at-home orders are working to ensure that our health care system is not overwhelmed and can continue to provide high quality care for those who need it.

I have several updates for the committee. I want to begin by assuring you and our members that under our current virtual work environment, we've been able to maintain constant communication with our health plans to help ensure that our members have access to the care they need.

As you know, some non-emergent procedures are currently being delayed, elective surgeries are a prime example. All of our plans had telehealth in place before COVID-19. And through their expanded telemedicine services, our members are able to have appointments and stay in touch with their providers through phone calls, emails, and video visit.

If there's one thing -- good thing that's come

out of this crisis, it's that we're learning a lot about delivery and telehealth. We've also been monitoring the availability of needed pharmaceuticals, working in particular with our pharmacy benefit manager, OptumRx, to ensure the availability of needed prescription drugs, as well as the transition to more mail order drugs, the safest way to receive them right now.

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The prescription drug pipeline has been a bit of a mine field, but we aren't seeing the kind of disruption we are worried about. As I mentioned, we've been communicating with our plans daily and they have been providing us regular updates on these and other issues. In turn, we have provided regular updates to our members on the CalPERS' website, and each of the plans are regularly communicating with its members providing updates, resources, and information.

I'm proud of how our entire health team has adapted and evolved during this difficult time, with over 95 percent of our health team teleworking, taking care of themselves and their families, so they are working hard on behalf of our members.

I want to say a little bit about 2021 rates and about how COVID affects them. This year's rate process has been enhanced because of some very good work by Marta Green and her team. We have better data, including

comparisons based on the claims and financial data from our own data warehouse. This improves transparency and further strengthens -- strengthens our rate negotiations.

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Were this a normal year, I'm confident that I would have been reporting that rates were looking very good and that the process was on target. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of uncertainty, particularly with the timing for our health rates. Let me touch on that.

One question we're asking is how COVID-19 will impact the rates currently in negotiations. The short answer is we don't know yet, no one does, but we're working hard to figure it out. Covered California recently published modeling regarding potential impact to 2021 health plan premiums due to COVID.

For the commercial market, they projected one-year costs ranging from 34 billion to 251 billion or more for testing, treatment, and care specifically related to COVID-19. They also modeled that premiums in the employer market could increase from 4 to 40 percent, because of COVID and that it will depend on things that we don't yet know, such as the number of people infected, how many will require hospitalization, the impacted delay to elective procedures, and the timeline for better treatment for a vaccine.

We're currently reviewing other models that speak to answer some of these questions, and we're doing our own modeling to better understand the implications for CalPERS' members and our contracts with the plans. Our hope is to know enough to be able to bring rates forward in June when they historically have become public and finalized.

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However, it may be necessary for us to alter our rate-setting timeline and communication. We're having conversations with the Department of Finance and others to explore options to ensure that our rates reflect the most up-to-date information available.

Like I said, as of now, we're planning to bring the 2021 premiums to you in June for approval. We'll keep you, our members, employers, and stakeholders appraised of any changes.

Currently, the 2020 open enrollment period is set for September 14th through October 9th. We're not planning for delays, but are also prepared in case final rates are pushed out. In that instance, we don't expect the current timeline to move significantly. Our objective remains to provide members with all of the information and time they're used to in order to make a decision, while ensuring that employers have time they need to process transactions.

During open enrollment, members can make changes to their health plan. We will continue to provide them with tools, such as their health plan statement, where they can see their premiums for 2011 based on their current health plan. Members will also be able to access their myCalPERS account and compare health premiums across the plans available to them and look up their doctors to see which plans they participate in.

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I want to update the Committee on our two pharmaceutical initiatives, referenced-based pricing, and biosimilars first. Both were scheduled to launch on July 1st of this year. The success of these two initiatives was predicated on our ability, and the ability of our two health plan partners, to run communication campaigns aimed at -- aimed at providers and members informing them of changes to our prescription drug plans.

The disruption of COVID-19 and the health care -on the health care system, and the disruption it causes
our members, is too great to move forward as planned. So
we are postponing both initiatives until January 1st,
2021. We'll reassess in the fall, and if the health care
system is still experiencing signif -- experiencing
significant disruption, we may push the date out further.

I want to mention our health competition initiative. This was on the agenda for March Committee

meeting and the materials were made available on the website. We moved that agenda item to the July off-site, when we will be discussing that with you either in person or virtually. By way of reminder, we'll also be discussing the important topic of risk mitigation at the July off-site.

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A few other issues. First, I'd like to move forward with a proposal for CalPERS to cover the cost of copays and deductibles for our members in our PPO plans through at least the end of May. This is a step our plans have already taken on the HMO side. And we think it's the right thing to do for Choice, Care, and Select as well.

Second, I want to say a little bit about surprise medical bills during this time. California has some of the most protective surprise billing laws in the country, but they only apply to HMO care. By way of reminder, our PPO products are self-insured, so they aren't subject to State laws. And this kind of all-hands-on-deck environment, one where retired providers are nobly returning to work and out-of-state providers have special authority to provide care in California, we are concerned about the possibility of surprise bills.

We are heartened that the federal stimulus package containing language from HHS that discourages surprise bills, but we think legislation is still needed

and have been working with our federal partners to convey our support. We're also working with Anthem, the third-party administrator for our PPO.

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Anthem is monitoring its networks for arrangements that could lend themselves to surprise bills. For members, it is imperative that they continue to seek care within their network, and that they contact Anthem or Calpers if they think they have received an inappropriate bill.

Lastly, today in closed session, the Committee discussed competitive strategy for the Long-Term Care Program. Much of that discussion was about the potential need to reduce the discount rate for the Long-Term Care Fund in light of recent returns of fixed income investments, the Long-Term Care Fund's primary holding.

Such a reduction would unfortunately require significant premium increases. Management is continuing to evaluate this and related issues and will come back in open session in June with a full presentation.

It is important to note that the LTC Fund and its discount rate are totally separate from the CalPERS' pension fund.

That concludes my opening remarks. I'm happy to take questions either now or I can wait until after Anthony has done his presentation.

Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: All right. Than you, Mr. Moulds. In my opinion, I think it's under our delegated authority, but the part about your copays moving forward covering that through May, I think that will just be without objection, the direction of the Chair. It gives you the benefit to move on with that. So thank you very much for bringing that forward.

Before we move to Mr. Suine, I do have a point of personal privilege for Mr. Rubalcava. Mr. Rubalcava, you wanted to speak, please.

VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA: Yes. Thank you.

And first, let me congratulate Mr. -- the Chair, Mr. Rob

Feckner for his reelection. And more importantly, thank
you for expressing the will of Committee by moving forward
that there should be no copays and cost of treatment for
treatment in this crisis. So thank you for that.

Yes. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I wanted to thank Mr. Don Moulds and all his staff, Anthony, Robert, and everybody else, for their help in ensuring that there was a smooth transition in the open enrollment for the County of Riverside into CalPERS. So it took a lot of effort. It was a tight -- very tight schedule and I appreciate the support of CalPERS' staff.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Thank you, Mr. Rubalcava. And thank you, Mr. Moulds and your team.

Mr. Suine, you look like a pilot. You're up, sir.

(Laughter.)

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DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: Yeah. Forgive me for the headset. I just didn't want anything to go wrong. So --

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: We appreciate that.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: I'm deferring to the headset to ensure that. So good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and members of the Committee. Anthony Suine, CalPERS' team member. And I'd also like to congratulate Mr. Feckner and Mr. Rubalcava on their appointments and look forward to our continued relationship going forward.

I'd like to begin my remarks by acknowledging this is the first time I'm able to meet with you since assuming my role as Customer Services and Support Team's Deputy Executive Officer. And I'm extremely honored to be the successor to Donna Lum and the great foundation she built with this amazing team and outstanding service to our customers.

I'm also excited to move forward and build upon those successes and am proud to serve this great organization in this capacity, and grateful to Marcie and

the Board for this opportunity and your continued support.

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It's been a few months since we've met, so it seems like ancient history, but I wanted to give a recap of the CalPERS' Benefit Education Events that we have held this year. We successfully kicked off our 2020 schedule with two well-attended events one in Rohnert Park in January and another in San Luis Obispo in February.

These events included some new resources we had rolled out to our attendees to make them even better. We had new learning guides that alleviated the members from having extensive note taking. We implemented QR codes that attendees could easily access electronic resources, and we had a pre-attendance checklist to help our attendees make the most of events -- of the events by highlighting things that they would need when they were at the events.

So we continue to have high satisfaction ratings for these events of 96 percent. And they've been a huge success and are highly valued by our members. And I'd like to thank both Board Member Perez and Board Member Feckner for making the time to connect with the attendees at these events, in January and February. And the feedback from our members s they really appreciate the face-time with our Board members.

With that said, in March, we started talking

about the implications of COVID-19 situation on our customer services and made the difficult decision to postpone our CBEEs through the end of June. So we'll continue to evaluate the situation and those scheduled for the remainder of the year.

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So with that, I'd like to move a little bit to an update on recent events as they pertain to services and support we provide to our members and employers. When March began, a hundred percent of the nearly 900 team members in CSS worked on premise in an office setting.

And as the COVID-19 situation emerged, we met diligently with team members and leaders for options to transition to more remote services.

We quickly, yet thoughtfully, made decisions on a variety of customer services, ranging from office closures, cancellation of in-person customer education, and began transitioning to phone and video appointments and web-based training efforts, wherever possible.

This significant effort included workload management activities to ensure all mission-critical functions were effectively planned and organized with as minimal impact as possible to members and employers, while at the same time leading and supporting our team members living and working throughout the state.

I'm amazed and proud at how quickly we were able

to transition most of our team to telework, maximizing their safety, and also those that remained at the office. Additionally, I am happy to report our most critical business processes, including benefit payments, are performing at an extremely high service level.

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I attribute this to having a high performing, deeply committed, and fully engaged team that adapts well to new circumstances and technology.

As a result, we've achieved more than I ever thought possible. Currently, more than 80 percent of our CSS team, including the contact center, is working remotely from home. It's been an incredible effort and I'd like to thank our partners across the organization for enabling successful continuity of service during such a trying time.

And this concludes my report, and I'm happy to take any questions.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Well. Thank you, Mr.

Suine. And I do want to, on behalf of the Committee, just reach out to all of our staff, starting with Ms. Frost, all the way down, for the magnificent job you guys have all done in transitioning during this terrible, terrible time we're going through. The IT staff was clearly ahead of the curve. They were prepared in case something were to happen. We certainly didn't anticipate it being this,

but I think the staff has done an incredible job making sure that business is as usual.

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As hard as it is to say that, you all have continued to do your jobs, and done them well, and it certainly is showing. I'm hearing from members out there that geez, I sent my application in and I'm actually being retired anyway. Even though I can't go have a meeting, we're able to do this either online or by mail. And staff has really stepped up and made this happen. So I want to thank all of our staff from the bottom of my heart. Thank you.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: Thank you, Mr. Feckner.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Seeing no other questions, I believe we are moving on to item 5, the consent calendar. Remember, I spoke earlier, we're removing 5b, the delegation. We're going to move that to the June agenda when we bring that back at the same time we bring back the Investment Committee delegation.

So what we have is on the action consent calendar, Item A, the approval of the December 17th Committee meeting minutes. What's the pleasure of the Committee?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: So move.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: I believe that was Ms.

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Taylor.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: Second.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Yes.
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             All right. We have moved by Ms. Taylor, seconded
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   by Mr. Miller.
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             Ms. Hopper, can you please call the roll.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Yes, Mr. Chair.
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             Margaret Brown?
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             CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: She -- her thumb is up, so
    I think that's a yes.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Okay. Henry Jones?
             COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES:
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                                      Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: David Miller?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER:
                                           Eraina Ortega?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER ORTEGA: Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER:
                                          Ramon Rubalcava?
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA:
                                           Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Theresa Taylor?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Aye.
             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Shawnda Westly?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER WESTLY: Aye.
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             COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Karen Greene-Ross
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    for Betty Yee?
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             ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER GREENE-ROSS: Aye.
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COMMITTEE SECRETARY HOPPER: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Very good. Thank you.

Moving on to Agenda Item 6, the information consent items. I have had no request to remove anything from that item, so we'll move on to Item 7, information agenda items. 7a, the PPO Health Plan Assessment.

Ms. Marta Green, please.

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HEALTH PLAN RESEARCH & ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

CHIEF GREEN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the

Committee. Marta Green, Calpers' team member.

I'm here to discuss the PPO Health Plan

Assessment Project. The purpose of the project is to

achieve long-term sustainability of the PPO basic program.

As a reminder, staff and Board members discussed the

issues related to the high premiums in PERSCare PPO basic

plan during the April 2019 closed and May 2019 open and

closed sessions.

In the May 2019 PHBC open session, the discussion was held pertaining to Agenda Item 6a, which was an action item titled, "Use of Preferred Provider Organization Plan Reserves to Reduce PERSCare Premiums".

The Committee approved the item and directed CalPERS' staff to perform an assessment of the PPO basic portfolio and to make recommendations to the Board's consideration to improve the stability of the portfolio.

This project is the result of that direction.

Today, I'll discuss the recent history of the PPO basic program, describe the project design and timeline, and the key findings from the first phase of the project.

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So by way background, in 2014, CalPERS began risk adjusting health premiums within the PPO basic program. When risk adjustment was removed at the beginning of the 2019 plan year, PPO basic premiums were significantly impacted. The PERSCare basic premium experienced a 38 percent rate increase and the PERS Select basic plan premium decreased by 26 percent.

The PERS Choice basic premium increased by a more modest six percent. However, the premium buydown I mentioned earlier mitigated the sharp premium increase in PERSCare basic for 2019 and 2020 plan years. The buydown used a total of 90 million using excess PPO reserve fund, which reduced the premium increase to 20 percent in 2019 and reduced what would have been a 21 percent increase in 2020 to six percent.

These significant year-over-year premium increases in the PERSCare basic are a result of adverse selection, when unhealthy lives concentrate in a plan driving up premiums and driving out healthy lives. There are many reasons a plan may experience adverse selection. It may be due to benefit design, service area, provider

network, or a combination of all of those factors.

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CalPERS launched PPO Assessment Project to understand the cause of adverse selection in the PPO basic program. The goal of the project is to achieve long-term sustainability of the PPO basic health plans, reduce year-over-year premium volatility, stabilize the plan populations while minimizing member disruption.

The project consist of four phases: Phase 1, Data Analysis; Phase 2, Stakeholder Outreach; Phase 3, Benefit Design Modeling; and Phase 4, Implementation.

So the first phase, data analysis of the project was conducted by CalPERS health actuarial team. The team looked at historical premiums, enrollment, member migration patterns, health care cost trends, and benefit and network differences among the three basic plans. member migration enrollment analyses affirmed that members with higher medical needs have historically migrated out of PERS Choice basic and PERS Select basic, and into PERSCare basic. And members with lower medical needs historically migrated out of PERSCare and PERS Choice to PERS Select. In other words, members who don't need a lot of care migrate or stay within a plan with the least rich benefit design and narrower network through Select and members who consider -- who need considerably more care migrate to or stay within the plan with the richest

benefit design and network, PERSCare.

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That members are choosing their plan based on network and benefit design in correlation with our health status affirms that the PPO basic premiums are being impacted by adverse selection.

The increased concentration of high utilization members in PERSCare basic necessitates large annual premium increases to accommodate the higher medical and pharmacy costs for the plan. Likewise, the increased concentration of low utilization members in PERS Select causes the annual premium to be lower than the value of the plan, based on the benefits and network offered to its members.

So to put this into perspective, if members risks did not influence plan premiums, the 2020 single-party premium in PERSCare basic would be \$788. Instead, without premium spend down, the PERSCare premium is \$1,123 for a single subscriber. The additional \$335 in premium is the result of high-risk members grouping into PERSCare basic.

Likewise, if members' risk did not influence plan premiums, the 2020 single-party premium of the PERS Select basic plan would be \$677. Instead, the 2020 PERS Select single-party premium is \$492. Because low-risk members group into this plan, they pay \$185 less than the plan is worth, based on its benefit structure and available

network.

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With continued adverse selection, the team anticipates that PERSCare basic plan premium will continue to experience high annual premium increases, while the PERS Select basic plan premium will be priced much lower than the actual benefit design and network value.

The PPO Medicare supplemental plans do not experience the effects of adverse selection, largely because the federal government funds the majority of the cost of the care through the Medicare program.

So the second phase, stakeholder outreach, began with a stakeholder engagement forum that was held in January of this year. The project team discussed preliminary findings from the analysis phase with the stakeholders and asked stakeholder leaders to encourage their members to respond to the coming survey.

This survey was designed to learn from basic members what factors they consider when they select a new health plan during open enrollment or why they choose to remain in their current plan. Patterns that emerge from basic members responses will be used during phase three of the project when the project team will consider potential plan redesigns for the PPO basic program.

In February, the survey was distributed to a randomly selected pool of 3,000 members in each of the

three PPO basic plans. The responses were collected through the online survey platform SurveyMonkey, the links to which were delivered to the selected members via email as well as postal mail.

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The CalPERS' team is currently analyzing the responses to the survey and intend to have results by the end of this month. In addition to the survey, the teams is conducting a literature review to understand how large group plan purchasers in this market have addressed the adverse selection in their programs.

So the next phase will be phase three, where we will take the findings from phase 1 and phase 2 and use them to design and model alternative designs for the PPO health plans. The team will model a variety of options, including maintaining the status quo, implementing risk mitigation strategies for the PPO basic products, combining Choice basic and Care basic or some combination of all of these as potential solutions. Alternative design options will be presented to the Board in September of 2020, with final designs presented to the Board in November of 2020 for approval.

Phase four implementation will be the final phase of the project. And any approved changes will be reflected in the 2022 rate development process.

That concludes my presentation and I'm happy to

answer any questions you may have.

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CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Very good. Thank you for the presentation. I see no requests yet. Anybody still coming in with a request for a question?

Seeing none. Thank you very much, Ms. Green.

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CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: That brings us to Agenda

Item 7b, Retired Members Cost of Living Report. Mr.

Suine.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: All right.

Thank you. Again, good afternoon, Mr. Chair, members of the Committee. Anthony Suine, CalPERS team member. So Agenda Item 7b is our annual informational item update on the retiree cost of living adjustments, more routinely referred to as COLA.

And our retirement law provides for the payment of an annual COLA each May to all eligible retirees based on the rate of inflation as measured by the CPIU, which is the consumer-based price index for all urban consumers.

A retiree becomes eligible for COLA in the second calendar year of retirement. Therefore, members who retired last year will not yet be eligible for a COLA.

For the year-ending 2019 the rate of inflation, as measured by the CPIU, was 1.81 percent. Approximately,

95 percent of our retirees are contracted for a two percent COLA. So those eligible will receive at least a 1.81 percent adjustment on this May 1 retirement check.

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Because of lower inflation in some previous years, members who retired in certain years will receive the full two percent. We also have less than five percent of retirees who are part of employers who have contracted for a three, four, or five percent COLA. And they will receive at least 1.81 percent as well, up to their contracted amount.

The agenda item provides a helpful chart for retirees to determine what they should expect for a COLA increase, based on their retirement date. This information has been shared with our stakeholders and is available in our newsletter and on our website for our members.

With that, that concludes my comments. I'm happy to take any questions.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Thank you, Mr. Suine. I'm sure that's very good news for a lot of our retirees.

A questions from Mr. Jones.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: You're muted Henry.

Henry, you're muted.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Okay. Thank you. I

guess the Chair did that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Suine, for the report. And as usual, could you just comment briefly on the PPP, the Purchasing Power Protection Act, because I do know that we have some of our members that retired years ago and just explain that they may get an additional bump if this data suggests so.

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DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: Yeah, that's correct, Mr. Jones. The PPPA is also -- it works in conjunction with the cost of living adjustment. So if the cost of living adjustments don't keep up with inflation, typically over 25, 30 years, then that purchasing power protection kicks in and helps our members who have retired many, many, many years ago to retain a purchasing power in alignment with what their employer contracts for.

So there's about 12,000 people -- 1,200 of our retirees who have a PPPA amount, as well as their cost of living adjustment. So those help make the member whole. And those have kind of fluctuated around 12 to 13 thousand retirees over the last few years.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Thank you very much. DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: Sure thing.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Very good. Seeing no other questions, thank you, Mr. Suine.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUINE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: That brings us to Agenda Item 7c, Summary of Committee Direction.

Mr. Moulds.

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CHIEF HEALTH DIRECTOR MOULDS: Yeah. Other than informal approval of the -- of our -- our intent to move forward with the -- to pay for the cost sharing related to COVID-19, there were no -- no directions that I recorded.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: All right. Very good.

That bring us to Agenda Item 7d, which is public comment. We do realize we had a few public comments for Item 5b, but that was the item we pulled and postponed until June. So we move those comments now down to public comment.

So, Mr. Fox, are you prepared to read the public comment into the record?

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS CHIEF FOX: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

So first we have from Tim Behrens. And the subject PHBC 5d, attachment 2. Tim Behrens, President California State Retirees.

"CSR finds that there are three proposed changes in delegation of authority oppose. Due to the nature of these proposed changes we do not feel this item is appropriately classified as a consent item and needs full Committee review and discussion.

"In the section with 12 listed authorities of the PHBC, proposed language: Strikes out in number one 'CalPers leadership in health care'. Clearly, the Board and the PHBV should be overseeing..." -- or excuse me, PHBC. Typo -- "...should be overseeing healthcare leadership.

"Strikeout in number two, PHBC approval of 'providers, managers, administrators', and adds plan design. Approving providers is an essential responsibility of the Board.

"Strikeout in number 10 removes PHBC authority to oversee 'providers, administrators plans and rates' of LTC plan contracting.

"Given current LTC lawsuits, we again feel PHBC needs full authority over all aspects of this important program. The other changes recommended appear in line with the original intent to simplify and clarify the document.

"I urge the Committee to send this document back as you did in yesterday's meeting".

End email.

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From Larry Woodson. Subject, public comments on Consent Item 5b.

"I am commenting on Consent Item 5b, Review of PHBC Delegation. First, this should not be a consent item

for the same reason changes in delegation authority for the Investment Committee should not have been. There are substantive changes which should be discussed by PHBC members.

"I have concerns with the same three proposed changes Mr. Behrens identified in his comments: changes to the ten listed authorities of the Committee starting with one, removing authority to set and oversee CalPERS leadership in health care.

"Secondly, removing authority to approve health plan providers, managers, and administrators.

"Lastly, removing authority to approve long-term care plan providers, administrators, plans and rates.

"These are necessary and important authorities that the PHBC members should retain and carry out.

"Thank you".

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End message.

In addition, after Mr. Moulds spoke, Larry
Woodson sent a quick email and wanted to mention, "Don
Moulds indicated June PHBC is still the goal for approval
of final rates. But in stakeholders briefing last
Thursday, he and Marta Green announced that there would be
a release of preliminary rates for stakeholder review
prior to the PHBC meeting. The latest calendar, gives no
PHBC meeting in May. Will there be a special meeting

called in May for release? When will we see them? Thank you".

End email.

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CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Can you address that?

CHIEF HEALTH DIRECTOR MOULDS: Do you -- Mr.

Chair, would you like me to address the last part of that question?

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Yes, please.

CHIEF HEALTH DIRECTOR MOULDS: So we don't intend to have a meeting between now and June. If we bring back rates in June for final approval, they would be for consideration, and discussion publicly, and action. If there was a miscommunication on our part during the stakeholder briefing about -- about the sequencing of the subsequent meetings, our apologies.

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: I just -- I also want to add on that Mr. Woodson I -- we understand your concern. Rest assured that you will get the information enough time ahead of time in order to digest that before we make any decisions. It may be that we don't even do the rate total in June, but you will have the information ahead of time no matter what the Committee moves on to do. So I just want to make sure that we alleviate your concerns or fears.

That being said, that ends public comment. That

ends today's meeting of the --

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MS. HOPPER: No. Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: We still have two more

comments for public comment?

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Oh, I'm sorry. I did not know that. Please continue, Mr. Fox.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS CHIEF FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair.

So these are unrelated to any of the specific agenda items. These email comments come from Paul Cseh.

And I'll try to get them both done within two minutes -- or excuse me, three minutes.

Questions to be read at the Board meeting respectfully from Paul Cseh.

"Why does CalPERS continue to use pharmacy service OptumRx that does not do direct deposits of claims payments and has a nationwide filing of complaints with State agencies? The days of Caremark were better. Don't we all deserve better?

"The same question with Delta Dental also -- who also refuses to utilize direct deposit and also has a nationwide poor record with both State and federal regulatory agencies. Isn't there something better that retirees and employees can use?

"Thank you for reading my questions".

Second. Paul Cseh. Questions to be read at the

Board meeting.

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"Why does CalPERS allow penalties by Delta Dental for going to non-participating providers when none exist in the area of the home of retirees, both in U.S. as well as those living outside of the United States? This policy being in contradiction of other providers that are part of the CalPERS network where no penalties exist.

"The attached grievance shamefully documents the problem and requires executive action to correct this injustice for all, and correction of my underpayment by health benefits. Thank you. Paul Cseh".

And that concludes the public comments, Mr. Chairman

CHAIRPERSON FECKNER: Thank you, Mr. Fox. Sorry for cutting you off early.

I do want to say that, Mr. Cseh, someone from staff will respond to you via email and hopefully alleviate some of your questions and concerns.

That being said, that brings us to the end of our agenda. I want to thank my fellow Committee members for a job well done. I think we had a very smooth and seamless meeting today. Thank our staff for all of their hard work, especially behind the scenes when we can't see one another. It went off very well.

So the next committee ill begin at 2:00 o'clock,

in order to give time to bring on the next set of participants and to load the PowerPoints et cetera for the next committee.

So this meeting of the Pension and Heath Benefits Committee is adjourned. We hope everyone stays safe. Be well.

(Thereupon California Public Employees'
Retirement System, Pension and Health Benefits
Committee open session meeting adjourned
at 1:41 p.m.)

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Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify: That I am a disinterested person herein; that the

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, JAMES F. PETERS, a Certified Shorthand

foregoing California Public Employees' Retirement System, Board of Administration, Pension and Health Benefits Committee open session meeting was reported in shorthand by me, James F. Peters, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, and was thereafter transcribed, under my direction, by computer-assisted transcription;

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said meeting nor in any way interested in the outcome of said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of April, 2020.

James &

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR Certified Shorthand Reporter License No. 10063