



Pension & Health Benefits Committee

Agenda Item 6a

November 14, 2023

Item Name: Health Policy Forum

Program: Health Benefits

Item Type: Information

Executive Summary

This agenda item provides the Pension & Health Benefits Committee (PHBC) with an introduction to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) Health Policy Forum. The purpose of this work is to ensure that the health policy decisions are well informed, future-oriented, and aligned with CalPERS FY 2022-27 Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan

This agenda item supports the CalPERS 2022-27 Strategic Plan goal of ensuring our members have access to equitable, high-quality, affordable health care.

Background

CalPERS has long sought and benefited from the insights of external specialists on matters related to health benefits. We seek to formalize this process with the creation of the CalPERS Health Policy Forum, which will serve as a vehicle for engaging with external experts on critical challenges and opportunities facing health care now and in the future.

The creation of a Health Policy Forum is well aligned with the CalPERS goal of cultivating a diverse, risk-intelligent, and innovative culture. By actively encouraging fresh and diverse perspectives from external subject matter experts and open discussion, we foster innovation and proactive mitigation of future risks.

Analysis

The Health Policy Forum will be an ongoing series of forward-thinking discussions on current and emerging health policy issues with implications for CalPERS. Health policy experts from academic institutions, think tanks, and other health policy focused organizations will be invited to join CalPERS for these discussions. The forum is intended to ensure that policy decisions at CalPERS are not driven by immediate needs alone, but are rooted in a strategic, future-oriented perspective.

The forum will be held quarterly and initially conducted virtually to allow us to include experts from around the country. We plan to hold the first meeting in Q1 2024.

Invited speakers for the forum will include subject matter experts who will be asked to tailor their presentation and conversation to address CalPERS opportunities and challenges. To ensure a productive conversation, the team will do the following:

- Align the topic with the CalPERS strategic plan
- Frame the issue by providing speakers with a CalPERS-specific problem statement
- Provide relevant CalPERS statistics
- Steer the conversation toward what is actionable

Forum participation will include the health leadership team and assistant division chiefs, health subject matter experts from within the enterprise, and up to two PHBC committee members. Participation may rotate based on the topic. The forum topics will be aligned with the strategic plan and are provided in attachment 1 for consideration. An overview of each forum will be made available to the full CalPERS Board and to stakeholders.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts

Not applicable for forums held virtually. In person sessions would require travel costs that would be factored into future budgets.

Benefits and Risks

Benefits:

- Promotes future-oriented policymaking
- Accelerates innovation
- Encourages inclusion of diverse perspectives
- Facilitates knowledge sharing

Risks:

- Resource constraints may challenge the goals and desired outcomes of the forum.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Health Policy Forum Tentative Topics PowerPoint

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