

California Public Employees' Retirement System

Board of Administration Pension and Health Benefits Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026

The Pension & Health Benefits Committee (PHBC) met in Open Session on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, in the Lincoln Plaza North Building, 400 Q Street, Sacramento, California.

The meeting was called to order at 11:38 a.m. with the following members present:

Ramón Rubalcava, Chair
Kevin Palkki, Vice Chair
Nicole Griffith for Monica Erickson
Troy Johnson
Patrick Henning for Fiona Ma
David Miller
Theresa Taylor
Yvonne Walker
Mullissa Willette

Other Board Members Present:

Michael Detoy
Lisa Middleton
Deborah Gallegos for Malia Cohen

Agenda Item 2a – Election of the PHBC Chair and Vice Chair

On **MOTION** by David Miller and **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee elected Ramon Rubalcava as Chair of the PHBC.

On **MOTION** by Theresa Taylor and **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee elected Kevin Palkki as the Vice Chair of the PHBC.

At 11:42 a.m. the Committee recessed into Closed Session. The Committee reconvened into Open Session at 2:02 p.m.

Agenda Item 3 – Executive Report(s)

Kim Malm, Deputy Executive Officer, Customer Services and Support (CSS) shared updates on the start of the 2026 benefit verification cycle, progress with AI assistance in CSS, service improvements, upcoming CBEEs, and the announcement of Geetha Swaminathan as the new Chief of the Retirement Benefit Services Division.

Don Moulds, Chief Health Director, Health Policy & Benefits Branch (HPBB) gave updates on this year's open enrollment dates, CalPERS public agency rating regions, and new access for Blue Shield members to primary care, urgent care, and behavioral health care services at Shasta Community Health Centers.

Agenda Item 4 – Action Consent Items

On **MOTION** by Kevin Palkki and **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee voted to accept the following Action Consent Items:

- 4a. Approval of the March 17, 2026, PHBC Meeting Timed Agenda
- 4b. Approval of the November 18, 2025, PHBC Meeting Minutes
- 4c. Review of the Pension & Health Benefits Committee Delegation

Agenda Item 5 – Information Consent Items

The Committee accepted the following Information Consent Items:

- 5a. Annual Calendar Review
- 5b. Draft Agenda for the May 18, 2026, PHBC Meeting

Agenda Item 6a – Health Open Enrollment Results

Rob Jarzombek, Chief, Health Plan Research & Administration Division (HPRA), shared CalPERS member migration reports between health plans during the 2025 Health Benefits Program Open Enrollment period. In total, 63,766 or 4.1% of CalPERS' members elected to change health plans during Open Enrollment.

Agenda Item 6b – Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transition Update

Mr. Jarzombek, Chief, HPRA, provided the PHBC with an update on the transition to CVS Caremark as the pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) to provide outpatient pharmacy benefits to members in our preferred provider organization (PPO) Basic and Medicare Supplement plans, members in many of our health maintenance organization (HMO) Basic plans, and members in Anthem's Medicare Advantage plan, effective January 1, 2026.

Agenda Item 6c – Long-Term Care Market Research

Jared Shinabery, Chief, Health Policy & Data Division (HPDD), provided an update on ongoing market research on stand-alone long-term care insurance products that are available in the state of California and nationwide for those aged 18 to 79. A key focus of this research is to understand whether, and to what degree, long-term care insurers actively partner with employers and associations (including public and private organizations, associations, and non-profits) to offer standalone long-term care insurance products to employees and members.

Agenda Item 6d – Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment 2026

Kim Malm, Deputy Executive Officer, CSS, provided the annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the CPI-U was 2.63%. The impact of the 2.63% inflation for the Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) is reflected in provided charts by COLA provision and year of retirement.

Agenda Item 6e – Summary of Committee Direction

Mr. Moulds provided a summary of the Committee direction from the March 17, 2026, meeting. The Committee directed staff as follows:

- Provide PBM grievance and appeals numbers to the Board.

Agenda Item 6f – Public Comment

The Committee received Public Comment from Katelyn Rojvongpaisal regarding access to behavioral health and assistance with the barriers.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

The next meeting of the PHBC is scheduled for May 18, 2026, in Sacramento, California.

Prepared by: Jenna Hayes
Committee Secretary

Don Moulds
Chief Health Director
Health Policy & Benefits Branch

Kimberly A. Malm
Deputy Executive Officer
Customer Services & Support