

MASON COUNTY LEOFF DISABILITY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES MASON COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS April 7, 2015

Members Present: Mike Longan – Firefighter Representative; Sylvia Florez-Milsom – Member at Large; Randy Neatherlin – Mason County Commissioner; Mike Olsen – City of Shelton Commissioner; Diane Zoren, Secretary. Absent: Nick Patterson – Law Enforcement Representative – Chair.

Cmmr. Randy Neatherlin called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Olsen/Longan moved and seconded to approve the March 4, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Long Term Care Policy

Sylvia questioned why Randy met with Ed Haeffliger outside of a LEOFF meeting to edit the proposed LEOFF policy. She asked what is the purpose of the LEOFF Board.

Longan answered the purpose is to review and approve medical bills for LEOFF 1 members.

Randy reassured the Board that his intent was not to circumvent the LEOFF Board but to incorporate what was discussed at the previous meeting into the document for the Board's consideration. It is up to the Board to adopt the policy.

Longan asked what the legal comments were. Diane answered that Tim Whitehead suggested language in #5.

Randy reviewed the proposed changes: how the average cost is determined, that the service must be medically necessary and prescribed by a medical doctor and the LEOFF Board does have the choice of obtaining a 2nd medical opinion.

In reference to #6 "bed holds" this is for holding a room and is not a covered service.

Olsen pointed out the member would have to sign the medical request form. It was noted this form is intended for long term care and the Board could ask for medical information in other instances.

There is no actual dollar amount; it's based on an average.

Longan asked about Randy's suggestion of 25% over the average amount. Randy stated that is not in the proposal as he was under the impression the Board did not support that formula.

Longan asked what stops a member from going to Pierce or King County.

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Randy stated this draft policy addresses how to come up with the average, the member can go wherever they want, but the cost allowed for reimbursement is determined by the average formula.

Sylvia asked how long does a member have to live in a county to consider it their residence.

Randy answered the policy doesn't address that but typically the person just has to say they live there. The allowable cost would be the average in the county of residence. The policy doesn't stop anyone from living where they want, but it sets a limit based on the average.

Longan questioned if the LEOFF 1 members understood that this policy would be up for a vote today.

It was pointed out that the policy was mailed to all LEOFF 1 members with a letter stating the policy is on the agenda and provided the meeting time.

Longan moved to table the long term care policy to the next meeting for a vote. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Olsen/Florez-Milsom moved and seconded to approve the final draft of the Long Term Care policy for LEOFF 1 members. Motion carried. 3 approved; 1 opposed.

New Business:

Executive Session - Review of Bills

The Board met in Executive Session from 8:35 a.m. to 8:40 a.m.

A member has submitted a request for hearing aids with one of the two estimates being from Costco. The member has requested the higher bid (Island Hearing Center @ \$370 more) be approved due to the extra service this business provides and ease of accessibility.

Florez-Milsom/Olsen moved and seconded to pay for the higher hearing aid bid; to pay for the bill submitted for another member's hearing aids from Costco but not pay the Costco membership fee and pay the remaining bills as submitted. Motion carried.

Longan pointed out that a member can use the Costco membership for other purchases. Costco also provides eyeglasses and their hearing aids are considerably less than other providers.

Hearing Aids

Mike Olsen would like the Board to consider establishing a hearing aid policy that would include parameters such as not allowing the cost of the Costco membership. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

Calendar:

Next LEOFF meeting will be May 5, 2015.

LEOFF Conference

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Discussion of the LEOFF conference in May. Sylvia indicated she is interested in attending and the Board was supportive of this. Diane will provide information.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren
LEOFF Board Secretary

Approved:

Nick Patterson
Chair