

## 2013 PEIA Public Hearings

Registration and Customer Service: 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Public Hearing: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

DATE	LOCATION
<b>Monday, November 4, 2013</b>	Holiday Inn 301 Foxcroft Avenue, Martinsburg, WV
<b>Tuesday, November 5, 2013</b>	Ramada Inn 20 Scott Avenue, Morgantown, WV
<b>Wednesday, November 6, 2013</b>	WV Northern Community College Auditorium 1704 Market Street, Wheeling, WV
<b>Monday, November 11, 2013</b>	Tamarack Ballroom A One Tamarack Park, Beckley, WV
<b>Tuesday, November 12, 2013</b>	Civic Center Little Theater 200 Civic Center Drive, Charleston, WV
<b>Wednesday, November 13, 2013</b>	Marshall University Medical School Harless Auditorium 1600 Medical Center Drive, Huntington, WV

*Overall, there are relatively few changes proposed by the PEIA Finance Board. You are encouraged to personalize your comments based on these informational points, rather than read them directly from the paper. Share personal stories about issues related to PEIA. Although organizations may carry weight at the hearings with messaging, it is often the individual or personal stories that influence board members.*

- **Thank the governor, the legislature, and the PEIA Finance Board for keeping benefit levels the same while decreasing premiums.**
- **We are appreciative of the rate reduction of \$10/month for all active employee premiums**, but would be curious to know how the “Improve your score/engagement discount” that will be rescinded affected participant health (did costs drop among individuals who participated?).
- Aside from encouraging participants to use a single physician through the transition to patient centered medical home, will PEIA consider offering a similar “Improve your score” program, including a discount, perhaps upon successful completion?
- **Providing employees and non-Medicare retirees a second attempt at the Face 2 Face Diabetes Management Program is a positive step.** We encourage PEIA to notify all past participants in the program of this second chance if adopted.

- **Specialty drug two tier:**
  - Raising the cost of the co-pay to \$100 for non-preferred specialty drugs may have an impact on individuals who have critical diagnoses and cannot take the preferred specialty drug (perhaps due to reactions, negative mixing of prescribed medications). **Will PEIA offer waivers for individuals who simply cannot be prescribed preferred specialty drugs?** Doubling the co-pay for non-preferred specialty drugs may penalize those in most need of their medication, many of which are not only struggling physically but also financially.
- **The additional \$25 co-pay for several out-of-state procedures may very well limit the access and care for a participant.** In many areas, access to these procedures is often closer in a nearby state. Additionally, many participants have long-standing relations with medical professionals they trust, who happen to practice out of state. **We understand the importance of using our resources as economically as possible; however, PEIA should offer incentives to utilizing in-state procedures, such as travel and expense reimbursement, rather than penalizing our public employees with the additional co-pay.** Many PEIA participants have limited time, sick leave, and resources necessary to travel to an in-state facility that may be further away than an out-of-state facility.
- Perhaps most importantly, AFT-WV must request the legislature to revisit legislation, based on the Finance Board's previous decision, which prohibits employees hired after July 1, 2010 from receiving a retiree subsidy. The legislature knows, the Finance Board knows, we know, everyone knows these employees will never be able to afford to retire. Even with the \$5 million per year going into a fund for these employees per the OPEB bill, retiree health care will be unaffordable for these participants. The legislature's and Board's decision to eliminate the subsidy is one of the most draconian policy decision ever made by a state agency and it should be revisited and reinstated.
- WV classroom teachers rank 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation in pay. We are not competitive with contiguous states. As a result, teachers who are out-of-field, on permit, or substitutes are teaching the children in many of our classrooms. We simply do not have enough math, science, language arts, and other certified teachers. **With our salaries ranked at 48<sup>th</sup>, increased co-pays in health care make it even more difficult for WV to recruit and retain certified, in-field teachers.**
- To help reduce future medical costs, PEIA should continue to promote wellness. Additionally, PEIA should increase the number of programs participants can engage in to create a healthier lifestyle. With a healthier population, PEIA can lower medical and prescription drug rates of inflation.