

Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board (RHPAB)

Public Comment from July 2019

From: Linda Dudley
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2019 7:43 AM
To: Alaska Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board
Subject: Benefits

Retired, [REDACTED], only acupuncture and massage bring relief and beginning to heal, no coverage.

May I ask why these procedures are not covered?

Thank you for your time

From: Carolyn Sanborn
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:05 AM
To: Alaska Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board
Subject: Modernization of Vision Plan

Would you please advise if the vision plan is being considered in your upcoming modernization revisions? I am specifically interested in the progressive lens coverage, as the coverage has been difficult for retirees and providers to understand and properly bill. No one get glasses with lines these days!

If the provider bills trifocal lenses you are covered with one price and selecting progressive lenses is an option not covered (the payment is greater).

If the provider bills progressive lenses as a type of lens, the payment is less.

This has been a problem for providers, retirees, and the Aetna customer service team for many years.

C'mon folks--fix it!

From: Dan & Nita Young
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 3:37 PM
To: Alaska Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board
Cc: sharonhoffbeck
Subject: FW: AlaskaCare Retirees: Please join us for a Town Hall event on July 18, 2019!

From: Sharon Hoffbeck
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Dan & Nita Young

Subject: Re: AlaskaCare Retirees: Please join us for a Town Hall event on July 18, 2019!

Hi Nita—

You should send an email saying what you said below to the Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board. The address is. AlaskaRHPAB@alaska.gov. It is important that they hear what you have to say. Also please cc me if you don't mind so they know that RPEA is watching what is going on.

Sharon

On Jul 15, 2019, at 2:38 PM, **Dan & Nita Young** wrote:

Sharon..... we work all day on this meeting day....

I want them to quit cutting our benefits and leave our health care alone....the dental is \$2,000I could not afford an implant if I had to have one....they are a luxury....I just want the health care left alone...I cannot afford a big deductible...it is all we can do that we are doing....they are just doing things to make it better for the corporate end of ins...not the struggling people....who need good basic care....

From: Vivian Rojas

Sent: Monday, July 8, 2019 10:04 AM

To: Alaska Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board

Subject: Proposed changes to DRB benefits

To whom this concerns:

I am voicing my opinion on the proposed changes, as a retired classified employee of a school district I am on a budget that is working for me. I very much appreciate the benefits I have and would like to see them continue as written currently.

I ask why the increase to **yearly deductible and out of pockets**? What is the evidence for this? Increase costs? - then lets work on health care costs instead of passing on the costs to retirees.

Implant coverage: As a person ages so do the chances of periodontal disease which can then cause other medical issues if left untreated. The rational of having medical coverage for accidental implant and reverting other implant to dental is inconsistent with the reasoning DRB proposal. If the problem is Aetna and Moda get confused then that is an administration problem to correct within their walls not pass on to retirees.

Increased copay for some brand-named drugs: *I am on one prescribed medicine and again appreciate the OptumRx no fee mail order. I am out of pocket covering many supplements per month that are not covered by this program, but prescribed by my doctor and any more additional fees I may face would add to a hardship.*

I was not able to locate the complete list of proposed changes, but felt I needed to address the above proposed changes.

From: TJ Anderson

Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 1:28 PM

To: Alaska Retiree Health Plan Advisory Board (DOA sponsored) <alaskarhpab@alaska.gov>

Subject: Benefit changes

Hello

I am against the benefit changes!

Why are retirement benefits even being looked at for any reduction?

Those benefits were promised to us as part of our wages. Otherwise my retirement check would be double what it is now.

Most of us live pay check to pay check with utilities and housing costs going up and now you are considering lowering our benefits! Unacceptable!