

## Fire Fighters & Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Meeting



**March 13, 2024  
8:30 am to 10:00 am**

**MICROSOFT TEAMS Meeting/Dial Conference Number 207-209-4724 ID# 247424586# PIN 247424586#**

Committee members in attendance: Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez, Employee Health & Wellness, Chief David Groder, Chief Richard Caton, Ronnie Green, Dan Felkel, Susan Ryerson, Employee Health & Wellness. Joan Hanscom, Employee Health & Wellness

Committee members absent: John Martell, Paul Gaspar

Others present: Nathan Morse, Director of HR Wellness Programs, Kurt Caswell, Employee Health & Wellness

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Next Steps
<b>I. Call to Order (8:33 am)</b>	Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez called the meeting to order.	
<b>II. Approval of Meeting Minutes</b>	Meeting minutes from December 6, 2023, were reviewed	A motion to accept the December 6, 2023, meeting minutes was made by Ronnie Green. Seconded by Chief Richard Caton. Motion approved to accept the December 6, 2023, meeting minutes.
<b>III. Legislation Update</b>	None	
<b>IV. Financial Reports</b>	None	
<b>V. Membership Update</b>	<p>Susan Ryerson presented membership numbers effective 2/28/2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipalities that are currently participating is 72.</li><li>• Active members that are contributing increased by 34.</li><li>• New hires that waived participation in the program is 30.</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members that withdrew is 0.</li> <li>• Total members terminated is 33.</li> </ul> <p>Members having the subsidy credited through their MEPERS retirement checks are 115. Below is the breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMEHT 69 participants</li> <li>• Cigna 23 participants</li> <li>• Anthem 24 participants</li> </ul> <p>Direct Reimbursement: Retirees being directly reimbursed monthly is 26</p>	
<b>V1. Updates</b>	<p>Joan Hanscom gave an overview of the current FF-LEO Health Insurance Subsidy Appeal Guidelines. As the plan administrators, we are proposing when a retiree reaches out to us and they have been retired less than a year, that the Plan Administrators would have the authority to be able to grant the subsidy without review of the FF-LEO Appeals Committee. The Plan Administrator will follow the current appeal process, confirming all the criteria for eligibility. contributions, eligibility to retire guidelines</p> <p>Once all the criteria have been confirmed, the Plan Administer would have the authority to approve and grant the subsidy retroactively up to a maximum of one year. Any appeal over one year would need to go to the full FF-LEO Appeal Committee for approval.</p>	<p>Chief Caton made a motion to approve the new administrative guidelines for appeals requesting retro subsidy of less than one year can be processed by the Office of Employee Health &amp; Wellness without Committee review required.</p> <p>Ronnie Green Second the motion. Motion Approved.</p>
<b>a. Appeals</b>	None	
<b>V11. New Business:</b>	<p>Nathan Morse introduced “The Bumper Crop” program. This program is a new one-time benefit for 2024 for those members who are active under the Anthem Health Plan. Farmer’s Market Vouchers will be mailed to the homes of the Anthem FF-LEO retirees.</p> <p>This program gives (3) - \$5.00 vouchers to be spent at a local farmer’s market. On the backside of voucher,</p>	

	<p>it gives directions on how to use the voucher and where the Farmer’s markets are located across the State of Maine. The vouchers are valid June thru the end of December 2024.</p> <p>Another topic of interest that was presented was that the State of Maine has an EAP/Living Resources program that can be customized ad it has been customized for active State of Maine Public Safety members and first responders or individuals who have a law enforcement background.</p> <p>Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez proposed that she could present to the group other cutting-edge programs that are offered through our health plan that may be of interest to the FF-LEO Committee.</p>	
<b>V111. Other Business:</b>	<p>Susan Ryerson established 2024 meeting dates and times.</p> <p>June 12, 2024, from 8:30-10:00</p> <p>September 18, 2024, from 8:30-10:00</p> <p>December 11, 204 from 8:30-10:00</p>	
<b>V1111. Adjourn Meeting (9:11 am)</b>	<p>Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez adjourned the meeting, Next meeting is June 12, 2024 @ 8:30 to 10.00 am. It will be held both virtually and in person. Conference room 400, fourth floor Burton Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, ME.</p>	<p>Chief Richard Caton made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ronnie Green. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.</p>

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