

NHRS Benefits Committee Meeting  
December 14, 2010

These minutes were approved at the March 14, 2011 Committee meeting.

**Benefits Committee  
of the  
Board of Trustees  
December, 2010**

**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**New Hampshire Retirement System  
54 Regional Drive  
Concord, NH**

*Committee Members:* Germano Martins, *Chair*; Brian Morrissey; Danny O'Brien. *Absent* Justin Cutting and Jill Rockey.

*Staff:* Tim Crutchfield, Esq., *Chief Legal Counsel*; Carolyn Johnson, Esq., *Hearings Examiner*; Denise Call, *Director of Employer Services*; Chris Stoddard, *Retiree Services Team Lead*; Shannan Hudgins, *Administrative Coordinator*.

Trustee Martins opened the meeting at 8:17 a.m. Moved by Trustee O'Brien, seconded by Trustee Morrissey, both the public and non-public minutes from the October 12, 2010 Committee Meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

In following the Agenda, the Chair entertained discussion of the draft IME Policy as reworked following its presentation to the full Board at the November 9, 2010 regular meeting. At that meeting, Dr. Shapiro had requested a more comprehensive complaint-screening provision be included in the document. During the discussion of the revised policy, Trustee O'Brien requested the development of an internal policy document that would adequately reflect the general guidelines used by NHRS Staff in its process for disability application reviews.

Moved by Trustee Morrissey, seconded by Trustee O'Brien, the Committee unanimously voted to move the Draft IME Policy to the full Board for its approval.

The Committee next discussed the Draft Recoupment Policy and the potential avenues the System could use to recoup payments made in error to members, beneficiaries and estates. Trustee O'Brien requested

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clarifying language for recoupment action from a living recipient, as opposed to action against an estate. He also suggested that financial information such as tax returns, personal financial statements, or generic bank forms be incorporated into the evaluation process to make it fair and balanced if a party claims an inability to pay due to financial hardship. Requesting these documents would provide the System with a comprehensive view of a party's ability, and future ability, to repay monies owed to NHRS. Chair Martins spoke to his experience at the Department of Health and Human Services and the potential hazards to both writing off overpayments in light of a current inability to pay, as well as placing someone in collections forever. The Committee's goal is to have an equitable, consistent process that would serve the System in the long term.

In response to questions regarding notification expectations, both Denise Call and Chris Stoddard assured the Committee that multiple venues for reporting retiree and employer changes were used by Staff, including questionnaires, newsletters, annual statements, and website notices. Trustee O'Brien was concerned that the onus for reports to the NHRS was adequately communicated to all members of the System, but especially for retirees whose age and circumstances triggered benefit changes.

Chair Martins stated he would supply DHHS documents for the Committee's consideration in establishing NHRS notification procedures.

On a motion to adjourn by Trustee Morrissey and seconded by Trustee O'Brien, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:07 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Shannan Hudgins*