

MINUTES | BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Special Called Teleconference | Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi

March 11, 2022 | PERS Board Room

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Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda *Special Called Teleconference Meeting, Friday, March 11, 2022 1:30 P.M.*

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Approval of Agenda

- II. Update on Delinquent Contributions
(Intended Outcome – Certification of Delinquencies)
 - A. Southwest Mississippi Behavioral Health Commission

- III. Adjourn

The PERS board room on the fourth floor of 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS, will be open to any member of the public who wishes to attend this meeting.

Board Members:

Dr. Randy McCoy, *Board Chair*
Mr. Bill Benson, *Board Vice Chair*
Mr. Kelly Brcland
Dr. Lee Childress
Mr. George Dale

Mr. Chris Graham
Ms. Kim Hanna
Mr. Chris Howard
Treasurer David McRae
Dr. Brian Rutledge

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The Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) Board of Trustees met Friday, March 11, 2022, via teleconference. This meeting was duly announced to the public, Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 4:09 p.m., on the Public Meetings Notice website of the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration.

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDEES

Via Teleconference: Board Vice Chair Mr. Bill Benson, Mr. Kelly Breland, Dr. Lee Childress, Mr. George Dale, Mr. Chris Graham, Ms. Kimberly Hanna, and State Treasurer David McRae.

Absent: Mr. Chris Howard, Board Chair Dr. Randy McCoy, and Dr. Brian Rutledge.

Current Board Vacancies: None.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON ATTENDEES

In Person: None.

STAFF ATTENDEES

In Person: Executive Director Ray Higgins; Chief Investment Officer Robert Clark; Senior Deputy Administrator Office of Administrative Services Terri Hudson; Counsel and Policy Advisor Davetta Lee; Member and Employer Services Deputy Administrator Mason Frantom; Benefit Services Deputy Administrator Lisa Green; and Chris Renfro, Information Technology.

Via Teleconference: Communications Director Shelley Powers.

GUEST ATTENDEES

In Person: Assistant Attorney General Amy Gamble and Lee Pittman, Legislative Budget Office.

Via Teleconference: Sherlene Vince, Southwest Mississippi Behavioral Health Commission (SWMBHC) and Crane Kipp, Wise Carter (attorney representing SWMBHC).

CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice Chair Benson called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

AGENDA

- **Motion:** To approve the meeting agenda.
 - **Made by:** McRae.
 - **Seconded by:** Breland.
 - **Discussion:** None.
 - **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Childress, Graham, Hanna, and McRae.
 - **Voting against:** None.
 - **Absent:** Dale, Howard, McCoy, and Rutledge.
 - **Duly Passed.**

Dale entered the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

UPDATE ON DELINQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Higgins reviewed remaining delinquent contributions due from Southwest Mississippi Behavioral Health Commission (SWMBHC) of \$46,141.17, of which \$10,387.57 is scheduled to be paid to PERS on behalf of SWMBHC by Medicaid. The Board certified \$109,157.96 in delinquent contributions at the February 2022 board meeting, \$119,827.39 in delinquent contributions at the December 2021 board meeting, \$142,857.25 in delinquent contributions at the August 2021 board meeting, and \$101,867.57 at the October 2021 board meeting. He also presented a recommendation from staff to pursue remaining payment from SWMBHC for delinquent contributions and to take any legal steps necessary to recover the amounts due.

When invited to share comments, per their previous request, Vince and Crane explained that SWMBHC's difficulty in paying the delinquencies stems from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as issues from prior to the pandemic and with the implementation of a new electronic health record system in October 2021 that created billing, receipt, and cash flow issues. Vince said she is hopeful that the issues will not be long term.

Benson thanked Vince and Crane for their words and called for any questions from board members. There were no questions.

- **Motion:** To certify \$46,141.17 in delinquent contribution payments due from Southwest Mississippi Behavioral Health Commission (SWMBHC) and request staff to recover such amounts from state funds due the agency, including taking any legal steps necessary.
 - **Made by:** Graham.
 - **Seconded by:** Childress.

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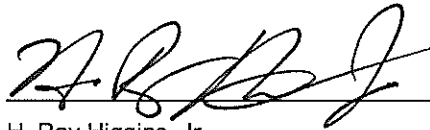
- o **Discussion:** None.
- o **Voting for:** Benson, Breland, Childress, Dale, Graham, Hanna, and McRae.
- o **Voting against:** None.
- o **Absent:** Howard, McCoy, and Rutledge.
- o **Duly Passed.**

Benson told Vince and Crane that the Board and PERS appreciate SWMBHC and its efforts to bring the delinquencies current.

ADJOURN

Benson called the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



H. Ray Higgins, Jr.
Executive Director
Public Employees' Retirement System



Bill Benson
Vice Chair
PERS Board of Trustees

HRH