

Barbara Barnes

From: Monte Lynn Jordan <mjresourceak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 9:59 PM
To: doa.drb.alaskacare.retiree.plan@alaska.gov
Cc: sean.parnell@alaska.gov; curtis.thayer@alaska.gov; mike.barnhill@alaska.gov; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Pete Kelly; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Doug Isaacson
Subject: Retiree Health Care Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am a retired State Employee. I worked for the State of Alaska for over 28 years. I own my home here. All of my three children were born and raised in Alaska - two of them graduated from UAF. I live in Alaska, full time and I always vote in borough, state and national elections.

It is my understanding that you are allowing public comments on the plan booklet until February 28, 2014. There are many significant problems with the Draft Retiree Benefit Book, and the State should allow at least an additional 60 days for sufficient review and input. This is an extensive document that is difficult to read and understand. Instead it should meet to the recommended readability grade level for U.S. Department of Labor Summary Plan Descriptions (6th to 8th grade).

To date the Draft has established the following unacceptable changes:

A new dental claim calculations based on Delta Dental standards for Alaska. This has changed the reimbursement calculation rates for out-of-network claims from the 90th percentile to the 80th percentile, causing a much higher copay.

Teeth cleaning visits have been reduced from unlimited to one in every six-month period with limited exceptions.

There are many other examples of new limits and exclusions, including certain medications, eyeglass frames, lens options, decreased allowances

for travel costs, local anesthesia in surgery centers, etc.

There is a large increase in the number of procedures requiring pre-certification.

The Draft document lacks internal consistency. This makes it difficult to know whether a given procedure is allowed or disallowed.

This document does not clearly address how the State will carry out its fiduciary responsibilities for the retiree benefit Plan. It seems to delegate

authority for administering and designing the Plan to the third party administrators. Additionally, it takes the Division of Retirement & Benefits

completely out of the appeals process.

Clearly to rush this document to finalization will lead to future misunderstandings, problems and reveal a lack of concern for the detrimental effects on the benefits that it may have on the retired employees who need and count on the health benefits they worked for.

I believe an extension of at least 60 days is a reasonable request.

Sincerely,

**Monte L. Jordan
Fairbanks, Alaska**