

# **Public Safety Memorial Fund Board**

## **Minutes**

### **April 24, 2025**

The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board held a special meeting on April 24, 2025, at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:53 a.m.

#### **Committee Members:**

DaNeshia Barrett, Chair, Law Enforcement Representative  
Jennifer Cameron, Vice-Chair, Corrections Representative  
Matthew English, Corrections Representative  
Scotty Nowning, Law Enforcement Representative

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Maria Caballero-Rubio, Public Member  
Chris Heppel, Fire Representative

#### **DPSST Staff:**

Kathy McAlpine, Professional Standards Division Director  
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator  
Juan Lopez, Executive Assistant to Kathy McAlpine  
Shelby Wright, Executive Assistant to the Director

#### **Guests**

Mike Reese, Director, Department of Corrections

#### **1. Introductions**

- *Chair Barrett began the meeting by inviting everyone in attendance to state their name and position for the record.*

#### **2. \*Approve January 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

- *Vice-Chair Cameron motioned to approve the January 23, 2025, meeting minutes. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

#### **3. Budget Update**

Presented by Kathy McAlpine

Initial funds at the beginning of the 2023-25 biennium were \$385,497, while revenue during this time totaled \$291,525. Expenditure limitation is \$309,415, with a savings amount of \$0, and \$36,309 is the amount projected not to be distributed by the end of the biennium. Additionally, benefits amounting to \$2,574 were processed during January 2025, while the benefits provided by discipline are as follows:

- CJ \$43,591 (64% of allocations)

- Fire is \$25,000 (36% of allocations)
- OLCC \$0 (0% of allocations).

**4. \*Sergeant Brian Gaunt, DPSST #37820; Beaverton Police Department;**  
**Supplemental Application for Discretionary PSMF Benefits**

Presented by Kathy McAlpine

On October 24, 2021, Sergeant Brian Gaunt with Beaverton Police Department passed away after spending nearly an entire month in the hospital due to COVID-19 complications.

On January 27, 2022, the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board (PSMFB) considered the initial application for PSMFB benefits submitted by Beaverton Police Department and Holly Gaunt. (spouse of Brian Gaunt). Ultimately the PSMFB determined that Sergeant Gaunt's death was a qualifying death as defined by ORS 243.954. As a result, Holly Gaunt was awarded the lump sum benefit of \$25,000.

On February 4, 2022, Holly Gaunt submitted an initial supplemental application for benefits, requesting further reimbursement for mortgage, medical and dental benefits for herself and three children. The PSMFB subsequently awarded Holly Gaunt a total amount of \$31,964.80. Since then, Holly Gaunt has continuously sought medical and dental benefits for herself and her three children.

The application submitted by Holly Gaunt on March 18, 2025, requests reimbursement of \$8,716.56 for herself and two of her children.

- *Vice-Chair Cameron Cameron asked if the PSMFB pays premiums in advance or if the payable amount is a reimbursement.*
- *Shelby Wright answered that if a continuation of payment has been made, the reimbursement is generally not paid to the individual in question, but when this meeting is dated by the first of when the bill is due. It still goes out for a projected 6 months, but the payment is still made prior to when that first bill date is received. Essentially, it is reimbursing for the month when it was approved, but the Board is justified in its concern that it is going past a certain time limit. Additionally, the payment is made to the individual directly, not the insurance provider.*
- *Chair Barrett asked if the Board currently requires proof of payment for the reimbursement made to the recipient. If not, Chair Barrett asked Jennifer Howald whether there is anything in the administrative rules or statutes that would prohibit us from requiring this receipt in the future.*
- *Vice-Chair Cameron noted that medical premiums have different rates for covering a set number of children, and it is important that the Board verifies the price per child in this instance.*
- *Shelby Wright confirmed that the price is the same for all eligible members.*
- *Jennifer Howald added that our administrative rule states that the Board will review an application for insurance benefits to determine eligibility for the reimbursement of the fund. The statute that gives the Board the authority to provide the benefit states that the Board may award benefits to the family members in an amount sufficient to allow*

*recipients to purchase health and dental insurance; comparable to that provided by the public safety officer. The statute does not use the term “reimbursements,” meaning the way the rule is written is an eligibility for reimbursement.*

- *Deputy Director McAlpine added that this makes sense in terms of hardship and devastation of loss, and the ability to front insurance after the fact.*
- *Shelby Wright highlighted the Board’s vagueness in determining eligibility determinations, so if the Board would like to add proof of payment to the Supplemental Application materials they currently receive, this can be included.*
- *The Board reached a unanimous consensus in implementing documentation for receipt of payment from all beneficiaries moving forward to verify intent before authorizing future payments.*
- *Member English motioned to approve and award benefits to Holly Gaunt, as requested. Member Nowning seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*
- *Member English motioned to award the full requested amount of \$8,716.56 to Holly Gaunt, as requested. Vice-Chair Cameron seconded the motion. A vote was taken by roll call where the motion was carried with a unanimous vote.*

**6. Next Meeting – July 24, 2025, directly following the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training meeting at 9:00 a.m.**

*With no further items to discuss, Chair Barrett adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:12 a.m.*