

## Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

### ii. Health Options Program

The Health Options Program (HOP) is a PSERS-sponsored voluntary health insurance program for the sole benefit of annuitants of PSERS, spouses of annuitants, survivor annuitants and their dependents who participate in HOP. The HOP is funded exclusively by the premiums paid by its participants for the benefit coverage they elect. HOP offers several health plans. Participants may select among two self-funded Medicare supplement plans, three Medicare Rx plans, and multiple Medicare Advantage plans for those eligible for Medicare. Participants not eligible for Medicare have a choice of a self-funded high deductible indemnity plan and multiple managed care plans. Medicare Advantage and managed care plans are available to retirees residing in the plan's service area. The Medicare Advantage and managed care plans are provided by private insurance companies or managed care organizations and benefits are fully insured. The Medicare supplement and high deductible plans are self-funded and claims are adjudicated by a third party administrator. HOP also offers dental benefits through a fully insured carrier. The Medicare Rx Options and the prescription drug benefit of the high deductible plan for those not eligible for Medicare are also self-funded.

HOP uses a pharmacy benefits manager to administer the benefits. Effective January 1, 2006, PSERS entered into an Employer/Union Entity contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to operate a voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). Monthly premiums are received from CMS covering the 82,010 participants in the PDP. An independent actuarial consulting firm sets the rates for the self-funded benefits. The HOP maintains reserves for claims that are Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) and for claim fluctuation for the self-funded benefit plans. At June 30, 2017 and 2016 PSERS recorded \$16,239,000 and \$14,701,000, respectively, in IBNR. The IBNR is included in benefits payable. The PSERS pension fund assets are not available to fund or satisfy obligations of the HOP.

## 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### (A) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the System are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting under which expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred, revenues are recorded in the accounting period in which they are earned and become measurable, and investment purchases and sales are recorded as of their trade date. Member and employer contributions are recognized in the period for which employees' salaries are reported. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan.

The accounting and reporting policies of the System conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of additions and deductions in fiduciary net position during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### (B) Investments

The System's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the amount that the System can reasonably expect to receive for an investment in a current sale between a willing buyer and a willing seller, that is, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. See Note 4(B) for the description of the Fair Value of Investments.

Net appreciation (depreciation) is determined by calculating the change in fair value of investments between the beginning of the year and end of the year, less purchases of investments at cost, plus sales of investments at fair value.

Investment purchases and sales are recorded as of the trade date. Interest income is comprised of dividend, interest, and other investment income. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date. Interest and other investment income is recognized when earned.

Investment expenses consist of investment manager fees and those administrative expenses directly related to the System's investment operations. Investment proceeds receivable generally includes unsettled investment sales and unsettled investment purchases are included in investment purchases and other liabilities. At June 30, 2017, investment proceeds receivable also includes \$480,771,000 in receivables due to the sale of limited partnership and real estate interests during FY 2015 and FY 2016.

### (C) Capital Assets

Capital assets consist primarily of data processing equipment, software, and internally developed computer software recognized as intangible assets. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over an estimated useful life of five years. Intangible assets are amortized using the straight-line method over an estimated useful life of twenty years for assets purchased prior to July 1, 2012 and 5 years for assets purchased after June 30, 2012.