

State of Montana
Employment Relations Division, Department of Labor and Industry
Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation
Project Charter

A. General Information

Project Name: Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation *Date:* April 6, 2016

Controlling Agency: Employment Relations Division *Modification Date:* _____

Prepared by: Bill Wheeler *Authorized by:* Pam Bucy

B. Project Purpose

The purpose of the Labor-Management Advisory Council (LMAC) on Workers' Compensation is to provide a structure for an organized discussion of workers' compensation public policy with the objective of bringing forward ideas, improvements and recommending changes that will have a positive impact on Montana's workers' compensation system. The LMAC will share ideas, gather information, furnish advice, and make recommendations on workers' compensation and safety issues to the commissioner in order to facilitate education among stakeholders, promote mutual cooperation between labor and management and improve the workers' compensation system.

C. Project Objective

Agency Goals	Project Objectives
To provide, without regard to fault, wage loss and medical benefits to a worker suffering from a work-related injury or disease.	To review and understand the current public policy of the Montana workers' compensation system and to recommend policy or system changes as appropriate.
Employers should be able to provide coverage at reasonably constant rates.	To monitor and evaluate the impact of prior legislative activities related to workers' compensation and occupational safety and health.
Claimants should be able to obtain benefits speedily.	
To raise the level of awareness of Montana employers and employees about workplace safety and health.	To initiate, promote and evaluate activities that help create a safer work environment for all Montanans.
To return injured workers to work as soon as possible after suffering a work-related injury or disease.	To initiate, promote and evaluate activities that encourage early return to work in Montana.

D. Project Scope

Through June 30, 2017, the LMAC will develop a workplan to review issues as directed in the Agency Order that have or could have an impact on Montana's workers' compensation system including occupational safety and health. Provide recommendations as appropriate to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry.

Out of scope: The LMAC will determine the issues out of scope but generally out of scope refers to issues un-related to workers' compensation or occupational safety and health in Montana.

E. Project Authority

- **Project Sponsor**

Project sponsor: Eric Strauss (as authorized by Commissioner Pam Bucy)
The Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation is authorized under agency order by Pam Bucy, Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry. The project sponsor holds final approval of LMAC recommendations.

- **Project Manager**

Project manager: TBD
Responsibilities: Develop and schedule meetings; provide means of communication for LMAC and all of the industry stakeholders; organize and coordinate all LMAC activities to insure the workplan can progress. Is accountable for successful completion of project.

- **Core Team**

Project core team: Bill Wheeler, Peter Van Nice, Bryan Page, Mark Cadwallader and additional staff as needed
Responsibilities: Provide direction and support for LMAC; help frame issues and discussions; provide means and structures for LMAC to do its work effectively.

- **LMAC**

Responsibilities: Evaluate, discuss, request information as needed, and draw conclusions about the current system, both its strengths and areas for improvement; make recommendations to the project sponsor for policy improvements.

- **Stakeholders**

Stakeholders: All entities or individuals with a business or special interest in the Montana workers' compensation system.
Responsibilities: To be informed and consulted for input.

H. Signatures

Name/Title	Signature	Date