

Minutes
Labor-Management Advisory Council
January 16, 2014
Best Western Great Northern Hotel, Helena

Advisory Council and Subcommittee members present: Lt. Governor John Walsh, Bob Worthington, Annette Hoffman, Don Judge, Bill Dahlgren, Riley Johnson, Jim Larson, Doug Buman, Al Ekblad, Al Smith, Lance Zanto, Bob Olsen, Jean Branscum, Kevin Braun, Jacqueline Lenmark, Bonnie Lyytinen-Hale

Project Core Team members present: Diana Ferriter, Bryan Page, Peter Van Nice, Anne Wolfinger, Bill Wheeler, Dave Kuntz

Others present: Mike Taylor Susan Schuldte, NCCI; Thom Danenhower, MMIA; Robyn Morrison, WorkSafeMT; Dick Martin, Fair Claim; Joe Hamilton, Paige Tabor, Stephanie Grover, WCMB; Scot Conrady, LFC; Bruce Spencer, PCI; Dwight Easton, Farmers Insurance; Glenn Wright, Coventry WC Services; Leah Tietz, Montana University System; Tim Fitzpatrick, MTSBA; Pat Murdo, Legislative Services; Erin Weisgerber, Barb Gullickson, Maralyn Lytle, Dr. Carla Huitt, Kristine Shields, Karen Wiles, Dave Elenbaas, Anni Druce, Jason Swant, Teresa Graham, Tammy Lynn, Kim Clark, Employment Relations Division

I. Welcome and Introductions

Lt. Governor John Walsh greeted those present.

II. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes of the November 20, 2013 minutes were approved.

III. Economic Affairs Interim Committee Report – Pat Murdo. Legislative Services

Pat advised of a meeting change for January 27th and 28th and there will be discussion about the structure of the Montana State Fund and the Old Fund.

IV. Montana Stay at Work/Return to Work Program – Jason Swant

Jason gave a presentation on the Montana Stay at Work/Return to Work program established by the 2011 Legislature. His presentation slides are available on www.mtlmac.com.

V. NCCI Data Presentation

Mike Taylor introduced Susan Schuldte who discussed the NCCI Medical Data Report for the State of Montana September 2013. She explained the data collected which compared Montana to the region and nation. Mike will be at the March LMAC meeting with the outcomes of medical marijuana in the workplace.

VI. Perspectives on HB 334 – Lance Zanto & Doug Bauman

Lance's presentation is available on www.mtlmac.com. He noted that midlevel supervisor training is being developed. Doug discussed the SAW/RTW program and said that workplace incident frequency and duration are Montana's #1 problem. He discussed implementing a state plan.

VII. LMAC Safety Committee Report – Don Judge

He reported that the committee has met twice, named committee members and will consider two important issues; 1.) Montana state OSHA plan asking ERD to get information on costs for the proposal. They will have two more subcommittee meetings before the March LMAC meeting; February 20th at the Great Northern Town Center and March 3rd at ERD. 2.) Finding a way to better educate and training opportunities for students and exploring broader outreach for more students as well as Train the Trainer certification for teachers. He said they are hoping to have something concrete for the next LMAC meeting on March 13th. They are considering how to require all employees on state jobs to have a 10 hour certification card and how to require all companies to post injury ratings.

VIII. WorkSafeMT Update – Diana Ferriter & Robyn Morrison

Diana talked about the history of the program with the goal of promoting safety which was vetoed by Governor Schweitzer. This free education program is perceived by the general public as a state program although it is private. Riley moved, Al seconded, that that there be an LMAC member to serve on the subcommittee to look at the realignment of WorkSafeMT program. The motion carried. Bill and Al volunteered.

IX. Medical Regulations Update/MMA Survey – Bill Wheeler & Jean Branscum

Bill discussed the U&T Annual Review and said there will be a meeting on February 28th to address chronic pain and complex traumatic brain injuries. They are looking to simplify the PDF form used by providers. April 1st the professional fee schedule update will be available. He said that Maralyn Lytle works with providers on billing. Jean discussed the physicians' survey that included 22 questions using Survey Monkey and said 110 physicians answered which is about 10%. 82% had treated work comp patients. Prior authorization is not needed if the provider is billing within the U&T Guidelines.

X. LMAC Workplan and Follow-up – Diana Ferriter

Diana talked about the follow up and work plan and there was discussion about the confidentiality. Bill made a motion and Al seconded that "thank you, we look forward to hearing from you" be added to the form. The members agreed if they get phone calls from individuals they will email the summary of the discussion to all members. Anne said that the work plan priorities are U&T Guidelines, Safety Committee and SAW/RTW.

XI. Public Comment:

Lt. Governor John Walsh asked for public comment and there was none.

XII. Next Steps – Anne Wolfinger

Anne asked for input on the Next Steps and Riley Johnson stated there isn't a need for presentations for the LMAC members. If an injured worker would be willing to come to this meeting to explain their experience with the work comp process the LMAC will help with travel expenses.

The meeting was adjourned.

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