

Minutes
Labor-Management Advisory Council
September 19, 2013
Holiday Inn, Helena

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

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

Others present: Representative Ryan Lynch; Ann Komac, Thom Danenhower, MMIA; Mike Marsh, Midland Claims; Dick Martin, Michele Reinhart Levine, Fair Claim; Brian Boland, Montana Laborers; Brian Reed, MCOPFF; Harold Blattie; Glenn Oppel; Tana Wilcox, Northwestern Energy; Robyn Morrison, WorkSafeMT; Lanny Hubbard, Montana State Fund; Leah Tietz, Montana University System; Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Auditor's Office; Scot Conrady, Legislative Auditor's Office; Joe Hamilton; Tim Fitzpatrick, MTSBA; Pat Murdo, Legislative Services; Bruce Spencer; Representative Carlie Boland; Webb Brown, MT Chamber; Mike Taylor, NCCI; Dwight Easton, Farmers Insurance; Erin Weisgerber, Barb Gullickson, Maralyn Lytle, Dr. Carla Huitt, Kristine Shields, Karen Wiles, Misty Knight, Dave Elenbaas, Anni Druce, Jason Swant, Teresa Graham, 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. Al Smith asked that "Other Items" be listed on all future agendas. The minutes of the June 27, 2013 minutes were approved.

III. Work Comp 101

Jason Swant gave a presentation on the basics and history of workers' compensation system (presentation available at www.mtlmac.com).

IV. Economic Affairs Interim Committee Report

Representative Ryan Lynch discussed the recent EAIC meeting. He and Representative Greg Hertz are the EAIC liaisons to the LMAC.

V. Perspectives on HB 334

In the June 2013 LMAC meeting, it was decided to have LMAC members discuss the impact of the workers' compensation reforms from the 2011 Legislature on their stakeholder groups. Bonnie Lyytinen-Hale presented the perspective of vocational rehabilitation professionals (presentation available at www.mtlmac.com).

Kevin Braun briefly discussed HB334 from the perspective of Montana State Fund.

VI. Medical Fee Schedule Review

Diana Ferriter informed the LMAC about the medical fee schedule update and rules changes that became effective July 1, 2013 (presentation available at www.mtlmac.com).

VII. Utilization & Treatment Guidelines

Bill Wheeler explained contracting and management of the utilization and treatment guidelines and described the current annual review process.

Dr. Carla Huitt gave a presentation on the training plan and evaluation plan and reported on independent medical reviews to date (presentation available at www.mtlmac.com).

VIII. LMAC Work Planning

Diana Ferriter and Anne Wolfinger discussed the 2013 and 2014 work plan. The next LMAC meeting is November 19, 2013 at the Best Western Great Northern. There was discussion about options for subsequent meeting dates and availability for LMAC members. Riley Johnson requested adding data collection to the work plan. Al Ekblad moved, Doug Buman seconded to formally request the Department to reach out to injured workers to participate in the LMAC process, requesting both positive and negative feedback. The motion passed. Riley Johnson moved, Bob Worthington seconded a similar request for the Department to reach out to employers. The motion passed.

Riley Johnson made a motion that the Safety Culture Act be added to the next agenda. The motion was seconded by Doug Buman and passed.

It was requested that the planned survey of physicians on the utilization and treatment guidelines be developed before the next meeting so Jean Branscum can provide her group a timeline of when they can anticipate providing information to LMAC.

X. WorkSafeMT

Robyn Morrison discussed the re-branding of the WorkSafeMT program shifting from a public to a private program. The fund raising efforts directed towards the private sector are difficult when they don't have anything they are "selling".

XI. Other Business

Riley Johnson requested a list of each member and who they represent in each packet for all future meetings.

XII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XIII. Next Steps

Anne Wolfinger reviewed the action steps. She will work on the outreach letters to injured workers and employers, schedule future meetings through 2014, and continue to help develop the physician survey. The focus of the next meeting will be on the Safety

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Culture Act with a presentation by Safety and Health Bureau Chief Bryan Page, and on workers' compensation data as requested by the LMAC.

The next meeting of the LMAC is scheduled for November 19, 2013, in Helena at the Great Northern Town Center.

