



Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation Project Charter

A. General Information

Project Name:	Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation	Date:	June 1, 2013
Controlling Agency:	Employment Relations Division	Modification Date:	
Prepared by:	Anne Wolfinger, PMP	Authorized by:	Pam Bucy

B. Project Purpose

The purpose of the Labor-Management Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation (Advisory Council) is to provide a structure for an organized discussion of workers' compensation public policy. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to monitor the effectiveness of the 2011 reforms (HB 334), continue to improve the Montana workers' compensation system, and recommend solutions to the Commissioner. The Advisory Council will gather information, furnish advice, and make recommendations on workers' compensation to the commissioner in order to facilitate education, promote mutual cooperation between labor and management, and improve the workers' compensation system in Montana.

C. Project Objective

Public Policy 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. Wage loss benefits are not intended to make an injured worker whole; they are intended to assist the injured worker at a reasonable cost to the employer. Within that limitation, the wage-loss benefit should bear a reasonable relationship to actual wages as a result of a work-related injury or disease. Employers should be able to provide coverage at reasonably constant rates. Claimants should be able to obtain benefits speedily.	To review and understand the current public policy of the Montana workers' compensation system and to recommend policy or system changes as appropriate.
	To monitor and evaluate the effect of the 2011 workers' compensation system reforms.
To raise the level of awareness of Montana employers and employees about workplace safety and health.	To identify initiatives, efforts and methods to improve workplace safety and reduce injury rates.
	To support WorkSafe MT and partner on appropriate initiatives
To return injured workers to work as soon as possible after suffering a work-related injury or disease.	To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of stay-at-work/return-to-work programs.

D. Project Scope

During the next two year-term, the project scope of the Advisory Council will be to:

- Provide a public forum for discussion of workers' compensation issues and concerns
- Monitor and evaluate the effect of the 2011 workers' compensation system reforms
- Coordinate with the Economic Affairs Interim Committee on HJ 25 (with the exception below)
- Support the workplace safety and transitional employment programs of WorkSafeMT
- Review for possible endorsement workers' compensation-related legislation during the 2015 Legislature

Out of scope: Structure of the Montana State Fund

The project scope may be changed and this charter modified during the term of the Advisory Council. Project scope decisions will be made by the Advisory Council within the parameters of the agency order. Subsequent modifications to the project scope will require a formal motion and vote by the Advisory Council.

E. Project Authority

• Project Sponsor

Project sponsor: Diana Ferriter (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 Advisory Council recommendations.

• Project Manager

Project manager: Anne Wolfinger, PMP

Responsibilities: Ensure project is executed using project management best practices and methodology. Develop project plans for scope, risk management, schedule management, and communications management. Is accountable for successful completion of project.

• Core Team

Project core team: Bill Wheeler, Peter Van Nice, Bryan Page, Mark Cadwallader, Dave Kuntz, additional staff as needed

Responsibilities: Provide direction and support for Advisory Council; help frame issues and discussions; provide means and structures for Advisory Council to do its work effectively.

• Advisory Council

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 changes and/or legislation to be introduced in the 2015 Legislature.

• 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