

Workers' Compensation Advisory Council
June 10, 2009
Minutes

Voting members

Mike Bredeck
Wayne Ellefson
Ryan Holmes
Mike Wilde for Glen Johnson
*David Olson
**Peter Lewon for Elizabeth Shogren
Gary Thaden
Ray Waldron

Nonvoting members

*Senator Tom Bakk
*Representative Bob Gunther

Voting members excused

Don Gerdesmeier
Bob Lux
Susan Olson
Jim Gander

Nonvoting members excused

Representative Michael Nelson
Senator Joe Gimse

Staff members

Penny Grev
Jayne Jones
Julie Klejewski
Carol Pankow
Shawn Peterson
John Rajkowski
Steve Sviggum
Patricia Todd
Lisa Wichterman

Visitors

Randy Bradley, Alaris
David Brown, W.C.P.T.
Judy Cook, Cook, Hill, Girard
Jeremy Estenson, MN Chamber
Joanna Dornfeld, MN House
Kevin Gregerson, UCWCP
Suzanna Kennedy, Leonard, Street, Deinard
Nancy Larson, MARP
Carolyn Laviolette, Messerli & Kramer
Brad Lehto, MN AFL-CIO
Lorna Leatherdahl, MCIT
Brian Martinson, MN Senate
Andy Morrison, Koll-Morrison
Laura Mundt, Mayo Clinic
Ken Peterson, Fairpay Solutions
Dawn VanHonse, MARP
Elizabeth Wefel, MARP
Dan Wolfe, MNAPTA

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Steve Sviggum at 9:40 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was not present, so no official business could be conducted at that time.

Opening

Sviggum reported there were currently 280 people registered for DLI's Workers' Compensation Policy Summit, June 17 and 18, 2009. Registration will close at the end of the day on Fri., June 12.

*David Olson, Representative Gunther and Senator Bakk arrived at 9:45 a.m. A quorum was now present.

Ray Waldron made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2009 meeting. Gary Thaden seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

Mike Bredeck made a motion to accept the meeting agenda. Gary Thaden seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

Sviggum continued his report about DLI's coming policy summit and encouraged visitors and members to attend.

Mike Bredeck made a motion to approve the expenses for WCAC members who attend the conference. Expenses include lodging, conference registration and mileage to and from the conference. If a member who attends the conference has already paid their registration and/or lodging, they can submit those expenses for reimbursement at the conclusion of the conference. Wayne Ellefson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

Update about 2009 workers' compensation legislation

Sviggum reported the bill passed during the past legislative session. He hopes there will be a more significant reform bill for the 2010 legislative session. The department created a DVD for injured workers, which was a recommendation from one of the work comp work groups. It will be unveiled at the policy summit on June 17 and everyone attending will receive a copy.

**Peter Lewon, alternate for member Elizabeth Shogren, arrived at 9:55 a.m.

Senator Bakk noted a small change that was made to the 2009 legislative bill that tightened up a data privacy requirement regarding information the department was sharing. Todd added that both Olson and Waldron were notified by the department of that change.

2010 workers' compensation legislation

Sviggum is hopeful the coming policy summit will create some interests about issues such as hospital reimbursements, benefit enhancements, workers' compensation collaborative, as well as many others. The summit will be a good opportunity for stakeholders to visit with members of the council.

Conclusion

The *Workers' Compensation System Report, 2007* is available online at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/WcSystemReport.asp. Todd mentioned that at a future meeting, if members would be interested, staff members from the Policy Development, Research and Statistics unit could give an overview of this report, as well as the safety report.

Waldron made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 a.m. Gary Thaden seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Klejewski

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Executive Secretary