

**Workers' Compensation Insurers' Task Force
March 26, 2014**

Members present

Robert Farber
Margaret Kasting
Stacy Kohlnhofer
David Oertli
Robert Rangel
Nancy Ross
Steve Patton *for Laurie Simonson*
Cori Wentzlaff
Gary Westman

Members absent

Mary Abraham
Robert Johnson
Claire McCoy
Susan Pilon
Ryan Shaughnessy
Cindy Van Eyll

Visitors and staff members present

Sandra Barnes
Kate Berger
Kris Eiden, Deputy Commissioner
Allison Haley, O'Meara, Leer, Wagner
& Kohl
Mike Hill
Karen Kask-Meinke
Chris Leifeld
Clayton Overmire
Ken Peterson, Commissioner
Jessica Stimac
Jim Vogel
Lisa Wichterman

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by co-chairman Gary Westman. Announcements were made. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of the agenda

Meg Kasting moved to accept the agenda as presented. Rob Rangel seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

Approval of the minutes

Rangel moved to accept the Sept. 18, 2013, meeting minutes as presented. Rangel seconded and all approved. The motion passed.

New business

Department update – Deputy Commissioner Kris Eiden

Miscellaneous announcement – This meeting will not be recorded.

Study available – The Medical Cost Reimbursement Study is now available at www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Pdf/MedicalCostReimbursementStudy.pdf.

Housekeeping bill – The unsession proposal statewide covers removing any insignificant provisions.

PTSD bill – This bill passed last year. The occupational disease and injury amendment includes that the deductible apply to the incident rather than the individual.

Mahoney’s proposal – Stacy Kohlnhofer

The proposal addressed limiting administrative costs for insurance in an effort to reduce cost for bill scrubbing. There was a hearing last week in committee; testimony was taken and withdrawn.

Overview of rehabilitation project conduct complaints – Mike Hill

Handouts were provided and an overview of the complaints that were submitted to the department about the misuse of laws and rules was given. Areas addressed included: source of complaints; professional conduct and accountability outcomes; and examples of 2013 rule violations.

Medicare Secondary Payer Act compliance – Allison Haley

Handouts were provided and discussed. Overviews of the following areas were given: proposed expansion of the workers’ compensation Medicare set-aside re-review process; and rulemaking on mandatory insurer reporting civil money penalties.

ICD-10 update, section 176.102, subd. 10(b) – Kate Berger

A handout about the proposed amendment governing ICD-10 coding system was provided. An overview was given. This amendment is necessary to update the ICD-9 codes to ICD-10 codes that are more defined to the condition. The department is using the expedited rule process.

Medical updates – Lisa Wichterman

Updates to the fee schedule include a new 2013b table (Oct. 1, 2013). I-Status codes have also changed.

Patient Advocate Program update – Clayton Overmire

Brochures and fact sheets were provided. In summary, this program was created to provide assistance to: workers’ compensation relating to back injuries, low back pain and fusion surgeries; medical care, so patients understand their treatment options; injured workers having problems with their claims; and second opinions for surgery. This is a two-year pilot program. A survey will be conducted of those who have worked with the patient advocate and the results will be made available. Contact Clayton Overmire for additional information.

Co-chairman position – Gary Westman

Karen Clayton-Ebert resigned as co-chairwoman and board member, leaving a vacancy. Rangel has expressed interest. Anyone else who is interested in the position should contact Gary Westman.

Reports, meeting schedule

- The most recent edition of *COMPACT* is at www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Compact.asp.
- The WCITF meeting schedule, agenda and minutes are at www.dli.mn.gov/Wcitif.asp.
- The 2015 meeting schedule is March 18, May 20, Sept. 16 and Nov. 18.
- The next meeting date is May 21, 2014.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Rohling

Executive Secretary