

**Workers' Compensation Insurers' Task Force  
March 16, 2016**

**Members present**

Sean Curran  
Lee Ingrassia  
Michael Johns  
Margaret Kasting  
Stacy Kohlhofer  
Julie Olson  
Steve Patton  
Rob Rangel  
Gary Westman

**Members absent**

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

**Visitors and staff members present**

Kate Berger  
Jon Brothen  
Karen Clayton-Ebert  
Natalie Haefner  
Kathy Hanson  
Ralph Hapness  
Gillian Heuer  
Mike Hill  
Steve Hollander  
Karen Kask-Meinke  
Chris Leifeld  
Mark McCrea  
David Musielewicz  
Melissa Parrish  
Jim Vogel  
Elizabeth Wefel  
Lisa Wichterman  
Brian Zaidman  
Christine Zimmer

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by co-chairman Rob Rangel. Announcements and introductions were made.

**Approval of the agenda**

Meg Kasting moved to accept the agenda as presented and Julie Olson seconded, all approved. Motion passed.

**Approval of the minutes**

Meg Kasting also moved to accept the March 18, 2015, meeting minutes as presented. Julie Olson seconded, all approved. Motion passed.

**New business**

*Department/legislative update*

Assistant Commissioner Chris Leifeld gave an overview of the handout related to H.F. 2478 that was previously approved by the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, specifically involving Articles 1 through 3. The bill will be heard next Monday in the Senate Jobs

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Also, an update was provided about the MS-DRG legislation that was passed last year.

*Opioids update – Lisa Wichterman*

Lisa Wichterman provided a handout and gave an update about the opioid rules involving long-term treatment. There has not been much activity, with the exception of a change made to the model contract to include language that medications may affect the ability to safely operate a vehicle. All are welcome to use the model contract or another version as long as it complies with the rules. The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) model contract is available online at [www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Pdf/opioid\\_model\\_contract\\_020116.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Pdf/opioid_model_contract_020116.pdf).

The CDC issued recommendations about opioid uses that are very similar to Minnesota's.

Lisa Wichterman provided an overview of the current processes for long-term opioid use. Some members asked if there were any risk-assessment forms. DLI does not have forms, but encourages those with questions to contact Dr. Lampe: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 to 5 p.m., at (651) 284-5275; or at [ernest.lampe@state.mn.us](mailto:ernest.lampe@state.mn.us).

*Rehabilitation – Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics*

Brian Zaidman gave a PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts about 2014 plan-closure statistics involving rehabilitation results, qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) fee reduction estimates, and vendor and QRC firm job development and job placement. Additionally, he discussed work and injury characteristics by rehabilitation plan costs.

*MARP rules suggestions – Steve Hollander and Elizabeth Wefel*

Steve Hollander, a QRC and a MARP member, gave a PowerPoint presentation with a handout about two proposals to update the rehabilitation rules. First, he asked to change Minnesota Rules 5220.1900, subp. 1f, by eliminating or adjusting the QRC \$10 fee reduction for cases reaching \$3,500 or 39 weeks. He suggested a new limit of \$7,500, because that would better reflect inflation. Second, he proposed a change to Minnesota Rules 5220.1900, subp. 6a. He suggested increasing the two-hour time limit a month of QRC job placement/development services to 10 hours a month unless the insurer agrees to extend services further. Steve Hollander also discussed the possible grouping of QRC job placement/development hours in a three-month period. Some discussion occurred among the members and MARP. The WCITF will discuss these proposals further and come back with any comments at the next meeting.

*FROI, EDI transmissions, FAQs, common errors and challenges – Melissa Parish*

Melissa Parish provided a handout and gave a three-month overview of EDI transmission statistics. She covered EDI submissions, DNs with more than 50 errors, multiple FROI submissions and reportable versus nonreportable claims. Questions can be directed to [dli.edi@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.edi@state.mn.us). The Minnesota electronic filing guide is available online at [www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Pdf/electronic\\_filing\\_guide4.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Pdf/electronic_filing_guide4.pdf).

*Filing rules, form rejections – Jon Brothen*

Jon Brothen, Compliance Records and Training supervisor at DLI, provided a handout addressing common issues that occur when submitting claims. He discussed rejected forms, and

examples were shown of correct versus incorrect filed letters and forms. Questions can be directed to [dli.edi@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.edi@state.mn.us).

### **Other business**

#### *New members*

The task force welcomed Sean Curran, City of Minneapolis, who is replacing Nancy Ross, and Lee Ingrassia, Berkley Administrator, who is replacing Robert Farber.

#### *Announcement*

The task force would like to thank Jim Vogel, a long-time WCITF DLI staff member, for his years of service and wishes him well on his retirement.

#### *Reports, meeting schedule*

- The most recent edition of *COMPACT* is online at [www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Compact.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Compact.asp).
- The WCITF meeting schedule, agenda and minutes are online at [www.dli.mn.gov/Wcitf.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wcitf.asp).
- The 2016 meeting schedule is May 18, Sept. 21 and Nov. 16.
- The next meeting is May 18, 2016.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Rohling  
Executive Secretary