

Meeting minutes: Medical Services Review Board

Date: Oct. 8, 2020

Minutes prepared by: Anita Hess

Location: Online via Webex

Attendance

Members present

Beth Baker, chairperson
Russell Gelfman, vice chairperson
Jeffrey Bonsell
Joseph J. Schulte
Erica Kuhlmann
Todd Ginkel
Natalie Haefner
Matthew Monsein
Lisa Hanselman
Elizabeth Alm

Members absent

Dan Wolfe
Elisha Harris
Bradley Kuzel

Alternates present

Kimberly Olson
Emily Bannister
Tammy Bredahl
Kevin Scott Wall
Dave Nelson

Alternates absent

Laura Breeher
Courtney Mitchell
Keith Johnson
Kathleen Gomez

Staff members present

Roslyn Robertson
Ralph Bovard
Anita Hess
Lisa Wichterman
Ethan Landy
Kate Berger
Brian Zaidman

Call to order

The Webex meeting of the Medical Services Review Board (MSRB) was called to order at 4:14 p.m. by Dr. Beth Baker. Attendance was taken and Baker confirmed a quorum of members was met. Baker introduced Dr. Ralph Bovard, the new Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) medical consultant.

Approval of minutes

The July 16, 2020, meeting minutes were not available. The board will have to approve them at the next meeting.

Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the Oct. 8, 2020, meeting agenda was made by Todd Ginkel and seconded by Jeff Bonsell. The board voted all in favor. The motion carried.

DLI announcements and updates: Temporary Commissioner Roslyn Robertson

- Temporary Commissioner Roslyn Robertson introduced Bovard, who has worked with Baker and several others on the board.
- Safety announcements: DLI is participating in discussions about safety guidance in different industries to keep everyone safe from COVID-19.
- Legislative and department updates: The 2020 Workers' Compensation Advisory Council bill was not passed. There will be another special session Oct. 12.
- The Workers' Compensation Modernization Program, Work Comp Campus, has been postponed for 60 days and will now be launched Nov. 2.

Business

Election of officers: Natalie Haefner nominated Baker to remain as MSRB chairperson. Bonsell seconded. Baker agreed to be the chairperson for one more year. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

Baker nominated Russell Gelfman for vice chairperson. Bonsell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

COVID-19 statistics – Brian Zaidman

- COVID-19 statistics are published on the DLI website. There have been 5,600 claims, about 200 a week. The peak on the graph from July was from claims from meatpacking companies.
- Hospitals and nursing homes have the highest number of COVID-19 claims, then meat processing. Janitorial staff members at meat-processing plants also filed claims.
- More claims are being accepted, including many that fall under the COVID-19 presumption.
- There have been a few fatalities, but no payment information is available about that yet; half of these are health care workers.
- The Department of Health compares workers' compensation claims with its lab-confirmed cases at a much higher level. All health care workers are not necessarily filing claims.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) – Lisa Wichterman and Bovard

Lisa Wichterman acknowledged the board would like to see traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the treatment parameters. She provided information from other states – Ohio's rules, Colorado's guidelines – and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

Bovard noted seeing all kinds of head injuries. Sports medicine literature is compelling, but the diagnosis is important. Limited parameters are important; we probably don't need 100 pages to define this. The term "concussion" is out of favor and TBI is used more now. Cognitive therapy is often helpful. In 85% of these diagnoses, people get better in days to weeks.

Kim Olson asked what the board's goals are for TBI. Wichterman explained DLI is providing information for possible treatment parameter updates at a future time.

Process for reviewing, updating treatment parameters

DLI would like MSRB to review and recommend updates to the treatment parameters based on current standards of medical practice.

Opioid and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) sections have been updated. Other sections have not been updated since 1995 and 2014. DLI wants to review the parameters to ensure they reflect current medical standards.

DLI is proposing a work group with up to seven voting members to meet and make recommendations. The work group should be composed of members who treat injured workers. The work group would identify what needs updating and make recommendations at the MSRB meeting in January.

The board indicated the work group should begin with Minnesota Rules 5221.6050 General treatment parameters; excessive treatment; prior notification, Minn. R. 5221.6200 Low back pain, Minn. R. 5221.6205 Neck pain, and Minn. R. 5221.6210 Thoracic back pain.

Wichterman asked the board to review these parameter sections. The work group meetings can be scheduled in November or December.

Gelfman, Bonsell, Matt Monsein, Bovard and alternates Dave Nelson and Olson volunteered for the treatment parameter work group. Baker will attend if she is available.

Gelfman made a motion for the work group to meet and review the treatment parameters. The motion was seconded by Jeff Bonsell.

Adjournment: Baker and board

Baker thanked everyone for coming. Gelfman moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bonsell. All voted in favor. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

2021 meeting dates

- Jan. 21
- April 15
- July 15
- Oct. 14