Meeting minutes: Medical Services Review Board

Date: Oct. 14, 2021
Minutes prepared by: Anita Hess
Location: Via Webex

Attendance

Members present
Beth Baker, chair
Russell Gelfman, vice chair
Elizabeth Alm
Natalie Haefner
Matthew Monsein
Kim Olson
Laura Breeher
Jeff Bonsell

Members absent
Erica Kuhlmann
Bradley Kuzel
Lisa Hanselman
Joseph J. Schulte
Mark Schulz
Dan Wolfe

Alternates absent
Kevin Scott Wall
Keith Johnson
Kathleen Gomez
Lyna Nyamwaya

Staff members present
Roslyn Robertson
Lisa Wichterman
Anita Hess
Ethan Landy
Chris Leifeld
David Berry
Ann Tart
Mike Ireland

Interested parties
Norbert Cuellar
Pam Carlson
Tara Erickson
Ceil Jung
Angela Garin
Antonio Tejeda
Sandra Stoddard
Kathleen Picard
Ames Gascoigne
Aaron Schenck
Adriene Henderson
Sara Curtis

Call to order

A Webex meeting of the Medical Services Review Board (MSRB) was called to order at 4 p.m. by Dr. Beth Baker. Baker read the Webex meeting instructions. Roll call was taken by Anita Hess. A quorum was met.

Approval of agenda and minutes

Mark Schulz made a motion to approve the amended agenda and the July minutes by roll call vote. Kim Olson seconded. Both were approved.
DLI announcements and updates: Commissioner Roslyn Robertson

- The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) medical consultant position has been filled by Dr. Emily Bannister, who introduced herself and said she is enthusiastic to work with MSRB.
- The commissioner is participating in two of the governor’s workgroups Frontline Workers Pay and The Council on Economic Expansion.
- The MSRB chiropractor position has been filled by Mark Schulz.
- Safety announcements: Meetings at DLI will remain remote through January 2022.

Business

Election of officers – Baker

- Baker was nominated for chair by Russel Gelfman and seconded by Natalie Haefner. The board voted to continue to have Baker serve as chair.
- Jeff Bonsell nominated Gelfman for vice chair. It was noted Gelfman is already the chair of the Rehabilitation Review Panel and, therefore, it would make sense to have another member serve in the vice chair position.
- Elizabeth Alm volunteered. She was nominated for vice chair by Bonsell and seconded by Baker. The board voted Alm to the position.

Minnesota PPD schedule, areas to watch – Mike Ireland, of Compliance, Records and Training

Mike Ireland, DLI Compliance, Records and Training, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Minnesota permanent partial disability (PPD) schedule and areas to watch. Ireland emphasized it is important doctors are using the correct Minnesota PPD schedule for ratings, Minnesota Rules 5223. There are two PPD schedules, one is for dates of injury prior to 1993 and the other is for dates of injury from 1993 to the current date. Ireland described the areas to watch for adjusters and physicians for automatic ratings and the most complex areas for PPD ratings. It is important physicians provide ratings under the correct section of the PPD schedule. He explained multiple ratings for the same injury. MSRB is concerned the third addition of the American Medical Association (AMA) disability guides is incorporated by reference in the rule and the AMA is currently on the sixth addition of the guide, so updates to the rules may be needed.

RETAIN grant – Pam Carlson, Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman, and Laura Breeher

The Retraining Employment and Talent After Injury/illness Network (RETAIN) grant is a federal grant with the goal to facilitate return to work for participants as soon as they are medically able and to reduce long-term work disability. The program is coordinated by Mayo Clinic, DLI and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Phase one focused mainly in southern Minnesota, where the Mayo Clinic is based. Minnesota was funded $3.5 million for phase one and was awarded an additional $19.5 million for phase two. Phase 2 will expand statewide and focus on underserved communities. Injured workers can access the program and will be assigned a case manager. If, at any point, the injured worker obtains a qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC), a handoff is made from the case manager to the QRC to avoid any overlap.

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Fee schedule update – Lisa Wichterman, of Compliance, Records and Training

On Oct. 1, 2021, the four fee schedules were updated. They are available on the DLI website. The biggest change is for inpatient hospital bills, has moved from the downloadable PC Pricer tool to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) web-based pricer.

Treatment parameter update – Lisa Wichterman, of Compliance, Records and Training, and Ethan Landy, Office of General Counsel

Wichterman and Ethan Landy presented a chart with the goals and summary of the discussions of the Treatment Parameter Workgroup to update the current treatment parameters. The chart lists the issues the workgroup identified. DLI Medical Consultant Bannister will be working with staff members to update and improve the treatment parameters.

Agenda items for the January MSRB meeting – Baker and Board

- Treatment parameter rules

Adjournment: Baker and board

Baker thanked everyone for coming. Bonsell moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Gelfman. All voted in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Next meeting dates

- Jan. 20, 2022
- April 21, 2022
- July 21, 2022
- Oct. 20, 2022