

Meeting minutes: Rehabilitation Review Panel

Date: July 8, 2021

Minutes prepared by: Executive secretary of the Rehabilitation Review Panel (RRP)

Location: Webex meeting

Attendance

RRP members present

Duane Butorac (chairman)
Russell Gelfman (vice chairman)
Roslyn Robertson
Michael Anderson
Monica Cronin
Carl Crimmins
David Dubovich
David Frary, alternate
Meg Kasting
Paul Osterbauer
Steve Patton
Mary Wells, alternate

Visitors and DLI staff members present

Mike Hill, DLI
Peggy Charpentier, DLI
Pam Carlson, DLI
Ethan Landy, DLI
Anna Donnelly, CorVel
Brian Zaidman, DLI
Jeanne Vogel, DLI
Sandra Stoddard
Stacie Goodrich, CompRehab
Anita Hess, DLI

Call to order

Chairman Duane Butorac called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. A verbal roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Then, Butorac read aloud the remote meeting statement.

Approval of minutes

Butorac asked for a motion to approve the April 1, 2021, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Carl Crimmins and seconded by Butorac. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried to approve the minutes.

Approval of agenda

A motion was made by Paul Osterbauer and seconded by Crimmins to approve the July 8, 2021, agenda with one revision, moving the Work Comp Campus update to the first item on the agenda. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried.

Commissioner's update – Commissioner Roslyn Robertson

Commissioner Roslyn Robertson welcomed Anita Hess as the new executive secretary to the Rehabilitation Review Panel. She also thanked Gretchen Longbehn for supporting the panel as the Webex host for the past year and a half.

Department safety announcements

- Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) staff members have returned to the building a minimum of one day a week; in September, staff members will be in the office a minimum of two days a week.
- Our expectation is the RRP meeting in October will be an in-person at DLI, in the newly renovated Minnesota Room.

Legislation and department updates

Robertson reported the following department and legislative updates.

- All of DLI's policy and budget proposals in the legislative session were accepted, which included having the Minnesota apprenticeship law conform to federal law.
- The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council's three policy initiatives will be:
 - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regulations support the inclusion of women and people of color in apprenticeship programs;
 - two members – energy and accessibility expertes – were added to the Construction Code Advisory Council; and
 - child labor information will be private, protected data.
- The budget initiative will add nine-and-a-half full-time-equivalent workers or full-time employees to the Minnesota OSHA staff and one to the Apprenticeship staff.
- Additionally, existing public housing buildings will be required to phase-in installation of sprinkler systems.

Due to Ken Askew's retirement, there is an opening on RRP for an alternate member chiropractor/health care provider/rehabilitation provider. His service to the panel has been greatly appreciated. The opening has been published in the current edition of the *COMPACT* newsletter and one application has been submitted, so far.

Work Comp Campus update – Commissioner Roslyn Robertson

Campus launched Nov. 2, 2020, and – after a rocky start – has stabilized. The vendor's, CapTech, support has now transitioned to DLI's help desk personnel and the Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) team. DLI is confident the new database system will be successful.

Furthermore, we are creating list of DLI staff members who are "super users," those who have mastered Campus and will be used as a resource for internal and external users.

Agenda items

RETAIN grant – Pam Carlson, DLI ombudsman; Lensa Idossa, Department of Employment and Economic Development; Dr. Laura Breeher and Samantha Westphal, Mayo Clinic

The Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/illness Network (RETAIN) grant is a \$19.5 million grant, with the U.S. Department of Labor and Social Security Administration. Its aim is to keep people in the workforce.

The initial Retain Phase One (pilot) grant was for \$ 3.5 million. It:

- was designed to help workers within the first 12 weeks after an injury;
- was developed with collaborative partnerships in southeastern Minnesota; and
- has coordinated health care services and employment-related support to help ill or injured workers remain in the workforce.

Phase Two is a new a \$19.5 million grant that:

- expands the program statewide to serve multiple health care institutions with a goal of serving 3,200 workers during the next four years;
- will assign 1,600 of these workers to a return-to-work case manager and the other 1,600 workers may use an employer outreach specialist through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED's) Workforce Development unit;
- is to provide help to underserved communities;
- partners DLI, DEED and the Mayo Clinic;
- is not intended to compete with the statutory workers' compensation system, but may be used in cases where the insurance company wouldn't assign a qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC); and
- is stepping in to get the injured party help as soon as possible – it only enrolls people for up to six months and is an early intervention program only.

For more information, visit www.mnretain.com.

QRC registrations and plan filings review – Brian Zaidman, DLI Research and Statistics

- There are 100 fewer QRCs and interns since 2013, which has led to an increased workload.
- Currently there are 19 interns, up from six in 2018.
- There are a steady number of plans submitted per active QRC.
- There is new information available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics survey showing inpatient hospitalization versus those treated and released.
- Furthermore, in the Minnesota OSHA newsletter, *Safety Lines*, there is an article about tracking medical treatment facility visits in Minnesota.

- Michael Anderson questioned how the placement numbers could have gone up when the number of job placement specialists has dropped significantly and cases are settling sooner than they used to.
- Zaidman said the number of people receiving job-placement services was based on rehabilitation cases being open at least three months. Therefore, in 2015, there were 429 people using placement and in 2019, there were 531 placement cases.
- Russell Gelfman agreed that has come up before and the data doesn't support what is being observed in the field. And, he further noted, that it's hard to place an injured worker who's been out of work for a year or more. Gelfman suggested a review be done on files being open longer than three months.
- Zaidman said he will look into that.

Annual chair and vice chair election – Duane Butorac and panel

Butorac said he will be retiring sometime in 2022; therefore, he will not be running again for chair.

Crimmins nominated Gelfman for chair, Butorac seconded the nomination and Gelfman accepted. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

Crimmins then nominated Anderson for vice chair, Meg Kasting seconded the motion and Anderson accepted. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

Crimmins and Gelfman thanked Butorac for his years of service on the panel.

Meeting dates in 2022

In addition to the Jan. 6 RRP meeting, the proposed future meeting dates in 2022 are April 7, July 7 and Oct. 6, and then Jan. 5, 2023. The panel voted by roll call and the schedule was approved.

Agenda items for next meeting – Butorac and panel

Butorac asked panel members with any topics of discussion for the next meeting to contact either Mike Hill or Gelfman, the new RRP chair.

Next meeting date

Butorac announced the next meeting will be Oct. 7 in-person at the Department of Labor and Industry.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Hess
Executive secretary to the Rehabilitation Review Panel