

Meeting minutes: Rehabilitation Review Panel

Date: Oct. 6, 2022

Minutes prepared by: Executive secretary of the Rehabilitation Review Panel

Location: Webex meeting

Attendance

RRP members present

Russell Gelfman (chair)
Michael Anderson (vice chair)
Carl Crimmins
Monica Cronin
David Dubovich
David Frary
Richard Hills
Sarah Hunter
Paul Osterbauer
Steve Patton
Sarah Kacer
Mary Wells

DLI staff members present

Mike Hill
Ethan Landy
Carey Wagner
Chris Leifeld
Kate Daly
Michelle Doheny
Brian Mak
Brian Zaidman

Attendees present

Stacie Goodrich
Nichole Sorenson
Kaylene Kickhafer
Josiah Moore
Deb Rush

RRP members absent

Megan Schueller

Call to order

Chair Russell Gelfman called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Gelfman read the remote meeting statement. A verbal roll call was taken by Carey Wagner. A quorum was met.

Approval of minutes and agenda

- Approval of July 7, 2022, meeting minutes
- Approval of Oct. 6, 2022, meeting agenda
 - A motion to approve both the July 7, 2022, meeting minutes and the agenda for today's meeting was made by Paul Osterbauer and seconded by Carl Crimmins. Both passed, approved to move forward.

Commissioner's update – Assistant Commissioner Kate Daly

- **Safety announcements** – The agency is open for business; most staff members are on-site an average of one to two days each week. Alternative Dispute Resolution is holding mediations and conferences in-person.
- **DLI updates** –
 - Roslyn Robertson, formerly the DLI commissioner, has retired. Nicole Blissenbach is serving as the temporary commissioner.
 - Michelle Doheny is the director of the new Business Technology Office (BTO) work unit.
 - As of Oct. 1, 2022, rehabilitation provider rates are: QRC = \$115.91 an hour; and placement vendor = \$92.83 an hour.
 - The state minimum-wage rates will increase Jan. 1, 2023, to \$10.59 an hour and \$8.63 an hour.
 - Frontline worker payments have been issued.
 - Technical improvements in the Minnesota Room will make it accessible for hybrid meetings.
 - Anita Hess, executive secretary, will be retiring in December. Assistant Commissioner Daly and others on the panel offered congratulations and thanked Hess for her excellent service.
 - Translations of DLI documents for limited-English speakers may be found on the [Translated materials](#) webpage.
- **Education** –
 - There is a mandatory rehabilitation provider update seminar Oct. 10, 2022, that is offered in person, simulcast and via videos afterward.
 - The “Employee’s guide to the Minnesota workers’ compensation system” has been updated and is posted online at dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eeguide2wc.pdf.

Agenda items

1. Vocational rehabilitation service cost analysis and statistics update – Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics
 - a. A new view about rehabilitation statistics was presented, including: looking at the number of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 indemnity claims and their costs; the types of disputes filed with DLI; the determination that nearly 90% of the rehabilitation disputes were related to rehabilitation provider invoices; the determination that 67% of rehabilitation plan costs were for medical management related services; and the determination that only 29% of all rehabilitation plans included placement services.
 - b. Panel members expressed interest in having additional research into: the correlation of the trends in closures by settlement (and agreement) with the number of rehabilitation requests filed; what economic factors drive the decrease in placement activity; employee opinions about vocational rehabilitation services (surveying the workers); and separate placement and medical management costs into vendor and qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) components.
2. Future agenda items for discussion – Gelfman
 - a. Work Comp Campus update (Michelle Doheny)

- b. Minnesota RETAIN Program (Pam Carlson, Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman)
- c. A survey of injured workers and employers, asking what rehabilitation services they believe should be provided.

Adjournment – Gelfman and panel

- A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Crimmins and seconded by David Dubovich. Votes were taken and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Next meeting dates

- The next meeting dates are **Jan. 5**, April 6, July 6 and Oct. 6, 2023.
- If you have questions, contact Anita Hess at 651-284-5567 or anita.hess@state.mn.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Hess

Executive secretary to the Rehabilitation Review Panel