

**Workers' Compensation Insurers' Task Force
March 17, 2010
Minutes**

Members present

Dave Clark for Dennis Ballinger, Western National
Karen Clayton Ebert, MCIT
Robert Farber, BRAC
Connie Brown for Meg Kasting, SFM
Claire McCoy, GAB Robins
Cindy Weingart for Dave Oertli, Sedgwick
Cristy McCoy for Laurie Simonsen, Travelers
Cindy Van Eyll, General Casualty
Gary Westman, Minnesota Department of Administration

Staff members present

Ralph Hapness
Julie Klejewski
Patricia Todd
Cindy Valentine
Lisa Wichterman
Jana Williams

Visitors present

Lorna Leatherdahl, MCIT

Members excused

Mary Abraham, Westfield Insurance
Bruce Baker, Liberty Mutual
Charlie Bierman, Mayo
Jodie Connor, Wausau
Bob Johnson, Insurance Federation of Minnesota
Susan Pilon, RTW
Jerry Walthour, City of Minneapolis

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by co-chairperson Gary Westman. Members and visitors introduced themselves. The agenda was accepted as presented.

Assistant Commissioner Patricia Todd announced co-chairperson Rob Rangel's position with Broadspire was – unfortunately – eliminated, so he no longer is available to serve on the WCITF. She asked members if anyone was interested in serving as his replacement and Karen Ebert graciously accepted.

4) Assistant commissioner updates

Legislative update

Todd reported that, at this point, there isn't a legislative bill for the workers' compensation area. The advisory council did have a few meetings and came very close to an agreement, and the department is hopeful it will continue to move in that direction. There was consensus that dispute-resolution needs to be streamlined and will continue to work on that area. The majority of the department's legislative bills are within the Construction Codes and Licensing Division.

She announced the department's second annual Workers' Compensation Policy Summit will be June 14 through 16. The location is yet to be determined. Last year's conference was a huge success; this year's will be two and a half days and will include exhibitors.

5) New business

Presentation about industry implementation of the worker identification (WID) number

Jana Williams, director of DLI's Data Management and Training unit, gave a brief overview of the worker identification (WID) number. The WID number is a person-specific, unique three- to nine-digit number that's automatically generated within the Safety and Workers' Compensation Division computer system when a claim-creating document is received (such as a claim petition where a *First Report of Injury* form has not been filed). There is only one WID number per person, even if the person has multiple injuries.

The WID number may be used rather than the Social Security number (SSN), with the date of injury, to identify a specific case file. Modified workers' compensation forms that allow for the WID number or SSN to be used became available online in June 2008. At that time, correspondence from the Department of Labor and Industry also began including both the WID number and SSN. If someone is filing a document with the department and they do not have the WID number for a particular case, continue to use the SSN – both types of numbers are currently acceptable.

You may call Jana at (651) 284-5304 if you have any questions. In addition, more information about the WID number can be found online at www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Widnumber.asp.

Presentation about industry implementation of electronic billing transactions

Lisa Wichterman, medical policy specialist with DLI, gave a brief presentation about electronic billing. The 2007 Minnesota Legislature enacted Minnesota Statutes 62J.536, Health Care Administrative Simplification Act, to standardize administrative processes and reduce administrative costs; it governs all health care providers and payers. For more information, Lisa's PowerPoint presentation is available online at www.dli.mn.gov/Wcitif.asp.

Lisa talked about the Minnesota Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC), which is a group of payers and health care providers that are writing the rules and guides for Minnesota Statutes 62J.536. She encouraged task-force members to join AUC; if interested, contact her at (651) 284-5173 or lisa.wichterman@state.mn.us. She also reported Senate File 2852 was introduced; it is a bill that will help take care of issues with the clearinghouses.

6) Future agenda items

Gary and Patricia asked task-force members to come prepared to the next meeting to offer suggestions about agenda topics to discuss. A few suggestions are:

- auditing of claims; and
- certification of claims managers.

The next meeting is Wed., May 19, 2010, at 9 a.m.

7) Reports/meeting schedule

- The February 2010 edition of *COMPACT*, and past editions, are available online at www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Compact.asp.

- The WCITF meeting schedule, agenda and minutes are available online at www.dli.mn.gov/Wcitf.asp.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Klejewski

Executive Secretary