

Meeting minutes: Rehabilitation Review Panel

Date: April 2, 2020

Minutes prepared by: Executive secretary of the Rehabilitation Review Panel

Location: Webex meeting

Attendance

RRP members present

Duane Butorac (chair)
Russell Gelfman (vice chair)
Roslyn Robertson
David Dubovich
Steve Hollander
David Frary
Scott Parker
Mary Wells
Alissa O'Hara
Paul Osterbauer
Mary Wells

Visitors, DLI staff members present

Mike Hill, DLI
Patty Rutz, DLI
Brad Morse, DLI
Anna Donnelly, visitor (CorVel)
Pam Carlson, DLI

Call to order

Chair Duane Butorac called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and announced the roll call and that all voting will be verbal because the meeting was being held via Webex.

Approval of minutes

Butorac asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Jan. 9, 2020 meeting. Scott Parker moved and Butorac seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried to approve the minutes.

Approval of agenda

Parker made a motion to approve today's agenda and it was seconded by Mary Wells. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried to approve the April 2, 2020, agenda as printed.

Deputy commissioner's update – Roslyn Robertson

Legislation and department updates

Roslyn Robertson reported that the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) made its annual recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature. The draft of the proposal is attached to these minutes.

Robertson also indicated the WCAC is currently working on draft legislation that would give presumption to certain workers who may contract COVID-19 while on the job. The WCAC is scheduled for an emergency meeting next week.

- Sept. 22 QRC update
- COVID-19 community mitigation and vocational rehabilitation. The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) encourages qualified rehabilitation consultants (QRCs) to limit in-person meetings with injured workers and implement social distancing measures. These measures can take place via telephone calls or video conferences.
- R-8 Notice of Rehabilitation Plan Closure form: Retraining plan tracking
- The Minnesota Work Comp Forum is scheduled for Sept. 25. This event is open to the public, but registration is required. It is sponsored by the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurance Association. The event flyer is attached to the minutes.

Safety announcements

Robertson announced all Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) conferences are now electronic to adhere to DLI's policy of no in-person meetings during the COVID-19 emergency orders.

Reappointment, appointment of panel members

Robertson announced the appointment of David Frary as the labor alternate. She thanked all the members for their continued commitment and service on the panel.

Agenda items

1. **Information about the Minnesota Access Review Board (MARB)** – Karen Gridley, DLI MARB, board chair
Karen Gridley spoke about MARB and its role with DLI. The board was created to consider applications for waivers from the State Building Code to install stairway chair lifts for people with disabilities. MARB is composed of five members and meets at DLI.
2. **Workers' Compensation Modernization Program (WCMP) update** – Brad Morse, DLI WCMP
Brad Morse presented a WCMP update that included the March 4 stakeholder testing event. There were 13 testers from eight different rehabilitation providers. The event was extremely successful, with feedback from the stakeholders looping directly to analysis to meet those users' needs. WCMP continues to be on track and on budget. The slide deck is attached to these minutes.

3. **Workers' Compensation System Report** – Brian Zaidman, DLI Research and Statistics
Brian Zaidman presented the annual system report to the panel members. The highlights of the report include:
 - the workers' compensation claim rate appears to be leveling off after several years of decrease;
 - medical benefits continue to be the majority of workers' compensation costs;
 - there is a decrease in the system costs for the past two years, relative to payroll; and
 - since 2009, indemnity claims and vocational rehabilitation claims are stable.

4. **Minnesota OSHA recordkeeping requirements** – Rob Balsavich, DLI Minnesota OSHA Compliance
Rob Balsavich explained the recordkeeping requirements of Minnesota OSHA Compliance in terms of what is considered a work-related injury or event. The presentation included items required of DLI and an employer after a work injury and the necessary reporting criteria.

5. **Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman year in review** – Mike Hill, DLI Compliance, Records and Training
Mike Hill presented on behalf of DLI Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman Pam Carlson. Highlights of the year in review included:
 - a description of the ombudsman responsibilities, including to inform, assist and empower injured workers;
 - the many types of inquiries submitted to the ombudsman and their outcomes; and
 - a statistical breakdown of types and numbers of inquiries by year.

Agenda items for the next meeting – Butorac and panel

Butorac asked that panel members with any other topics for discussion contact either him or Mike Hill.

Other

Next meeting date

Butorac announced the next meeting is July 9, 2020.

Adjournment

At 2:50 p.m., Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Butorac. A verbal vote was taken and all voted in favor, so the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Executive secretary to the Rehabilitation Review Panel