

Meeting minutes: Medical Service Review Board

Date: July 18, 2024

Minutes prepared by: Katrina Namad

Location: Hybrid – Washington Room at the Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN, and Webex

Members present

- Elizabeth Alm, chair (remotely)
- Tammy Bredahl – alternate
- Chad Griffith (remotely)
- Natalie Haefner
- Arnes Huskic – alternate (remotely)
- Chris Kramer – alternate (remotely)
- Robin Saunders Ryan (remotely)
- Jessica Stimac, assistant commissioner

Members absent

- Beth Baker
- Laura Breeher – alternate
- Russell Gelfman
- Lisa Hanselman
- Ceil Jung – alternate
- Erica Kuhlmann
- Clyde Markon – alternate
- Courtney Mitchell – alternate
- Matthew Monsein
- Kimberly Olson
- Deborah Zurcher – alternate

DLI staff members present

- Sharon Benkufsky
- Bretta Hines
- Denise Holmes
- Chris Leifeld
- Ethan Landy
- Katrina Namad
- Lisa Wichterman

Visitors

- Jennifer Leahy
- Wendy Harstad

Agenda items

1. Call to order:

- Chair Dr. Elizabeth Alm called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Roll call was done by Katrina Namad. Upon further review, the meeting was short one member or alternate to meet the quorum requirement. Therefore, motions to approve the agenda and previous meeting minutes could not be properly approved.

2. DLI updates – Assistant Commissioner Jessica Stimac:

- Jessica Stimac introduced herself as the new Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) assistant commissioner. She noted she most recently served as DLI's chief general counsel and had worked in almost all areas of the Workers' Compensation Division.
- The 2024 Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) bill passed out of both bodies of the Legislature and was signed by the governor. WCAC will now consider items for the 2025 legislative session.
- DLI is continuing to work with University of Minnesota on the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) study. Information regarding the study can be found on DLI's website.
- Staffing updates include the retirements of Mike Hill, Tony Galvan, Ralph Hapness and, soon, Chris Leifeld. Joe Lolich is a new supervisor in the Compliance, Records and Training unit.
- The 2024 Workers' Compensation Summit will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota, Oct. 29. The tagline for the event is "Strengthening the Workers' Compensation Community Together."
- The *Minnesota Workers' Compensation System Report* has been published and is available on the DLI website.
- DLI was awarded \$1 million from the Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) Technology Modernization Fund to improve the experience of users of DLI's workers' technology system, Work Comp Campus.
- DLI is working with a candidate for the medical consultant position and hopes to have the position filled by Sept. 1.

3. Vice chair election:

- Because there was no quorum of members, the chair and vice chair elections will take place at the October meeting.

4. Medical records reimbursement – Lisa Wichterman, of Compliance, Records and Training:

- Lisa Wichterman provided an update about the new legislation for electronic medical records, which includes penalties of \$500 to the health care provider and their agent for each violation of the law.

5. Treatment parameters – Lisa Wichterman, of Compliance, Records and Training:

- Wichterman led a discussion about updating the medical treatment parameters for acute low back pain. A spreadsheet comparing the guidelines for several jurisdictions was

reviewed and discussed. The board agreed to have members form a small workgroup to begin updating the section on epidural steroid injections. The workgroup's product will be brought back to the full Medical Services Review Board at the October meeting for discussion.

6. Future agenda items – Dr. Alm and board:

- No future agenda items were brought to the table.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.