

## Meeting minutes: Medical Service Review Board

Date: July 17, 2025

Minutes prepared by: Katrina Namad

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

### Members present

- Annie BeBault-Juntilla
- Tammy Bredahl
- Russell Gelfman (vice-chair)
- Chad Griffith (remotely)
- Kerri Hoff (remotely)
- Ceil Jung – alternate
- Chris Kramer – alternate (remotely)
- Matthew Monsein (remotely)
- Robin Saunders Ryan (remotely)
- Maria Starchook-Moore
- Jessica Stimac, assistant commissioner (remotely)
- Taiwo Lawal, medical consultant
- Andrew Wilkins – alternate (remotely)

### Members absent

- Beth Baker (chair)
- Elizabeth Alm
- Lisa Hanselman
- Michael Head
- Arnes Huskic – alternate
- Courtney Mitchell – alternate
- Deborah Zurcher – alternate

### DLI staff members present

- Sharon Benkufsky
- Tom Garza
- Bretta Hines
- Denise Holmes
- Alexis Johnson (remotely)
- Ethan Landy
- Elora Leene
- Katrina Namad
- Heather Rixen
- Sandy Stoddard
- Salina Tekle

### Visitors present

- Aaron Schenck (remotely)
- Carla Ferrucci (remotely)

## Agenda items

1. **Call to order** – the meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. Roll call was done by Katrina Namad and a quorum was met.
2. **Approval of agenda and previous meeting minutes** – a motion to approve the April 17, 2025, minutes, along with the July 17, 2025, agenda as presented, was made by Chad Griffith and seconded by Tammy Bredahl. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.
3. **DLI updates – Assistant Commissioner Jessica Stimac**
  - Recent efforts have focused on finalizing legislatively mandated reports. The latest *Workers' Compensation System Report* is now available on the website and details trends with claims, benefits and costs, including medical and rehabilitation, and also disputes within Minnesota's workers' compensation system.
  - The post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) study is due to the Legislature and the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council on Aug. 1. Efforts are underway to finalize the report. The University of Minnesota will present the results of the report at the October Medical Services Review Board (MSRB) meeting.
  - The October meeting will include elections for chair and vice chair. Dr. Beth Baker and Dr. Russell Gelfman have served in these roles since last October. Members are encouraged to volunteer for these positions. Baker and Gelfman can share their experiences regarding the time commitments and duties. It would be welcome if either wished to continue in these roles.
  - In terms of board composition, a chiropractor member is needed. Assistance in recruiting from chiropractor networks or contacts would be greatly appreciated. Sharon Benkufsky, DLI medical policy specialist, will also reach out to known chiropractor community contacts. If there is a potential candidate in mind, contact information and background details can be provided to Benkufsky for outreach regarding the board vacancy.
  - A welcome was extended to Kerri Hoff from SFM, the new employer insurer alternate, who introduced herself to the board members.
4. **Treatment parameters – Sharon Benkufsky of Compliance, Records and Training**
  - Benkufsky led a discussion about updating the injections portion of medical treatment parameters for neck injuries. She walked through draft updates generated from small-group meetings with Baker, Gelfman and Griffith. Dr. Taiwo Lawal provided her comments from her research about injections for the neck. There was a brief discussion after a question from Robin Saunders Ryan regarding work conditioning and work hardening. Upon realizing it was covered in the chronic treatment parameters, the discussion concluded. Additional questions were raised about chronic parameters; DLI staff members indicated it is still on the list for review. Next on the list is reviewing treatment parameters for injections to the thoracic spine. Updates will be brought to the full board at the next meeting.
5. **Future agenda items – Gelfman and board**
  - No future agenda items were brought to the table.

## Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Annie BeBault-Juntilla and seconded by Griffith. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.