

Meeting minutes: Rehabilitation Review Panel

Date: April 2, 2026

Minutes prepared by: Nathaniel Corcoran

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

Members present

- Angie Andresen (remotely)
- Ashley Scully (remotely)
- David Dubovich (remotely)
- Russell Gelfman (vice-chair, remotely)
- Laura Hokeness (chair)
- Richard Hills (remotely)
- Steve Patton (remotely)

Members absent

- David Frary
- Stacie Goodrich
- Jessica Stimac, assistant commissioner

DLI staff members present

- Alexis Johnson
- Nathaniel Corcoran
- April DelCastillo (remotely)
- Bretta Hines
- Denise Holmes
- Jordan Trumbo (remotely)
- Katrina Namad
- Lisa Wichterman (remotely)
- Michelle Doheny (remotely)
- Sandy Stoddard
- Tom Garza (remotely)

Visitors present

- Bonnie Bolash (remotely)
- Dannielle Hacker (remotely)
- Ceil Jung (remotely)
- Tolu Oyelowo (remotely)

Agenda items

1. **Call to order** – Chair Laura Hokeness called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was met.
2. **Approval of the Oct. 30, 2025 meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Ashley Scully and seconded by Russell Gelfman. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.
3. **Approval of the April 2, 2026 agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Scully and seconded by Gelfman. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

4. DLI updates – Bretta Hines, Office of General Counsel, DLI

- The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) is putting together a legislative package for this year and will be voting on it at the next WCAC meeting on April 8, 2026.

5. Rehabilitation policy update – Jordan Trumbo, Compliance, Records and Training (CRT), DLI

- Training updates
 - Rehabilitation intern orientation was Feb. 9.
 - The February training used a revised agenda with a later start time, fewer presenters and expanded time for questions, resulting in stronger participant engagement and positive feedback.
 - Attendees represented a diverse group, including qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) firm administrators, QRC supervisors, experienced QRCs, interns and vocational placement staff members.
 - The next orientation, Aug. 10, will continue the updated format, with higher attendance due to an increase in newly registered interns nearing their six-month participation point.
 - The virtual rehabilitation update training session for all QRCs is scheduled for Sept. 14.
 - Tentative topics for the September update include:
 - a review of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) study findings;
 - navigating rehabilitation requests with DLI Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); and
 - compliance and form filing with the compensation review team.
- Policy and rule updates
 - The FAQs webpage received updates last fall, adding new recurring questions and improving clarity.
 - The changes to registration rules and Work Comp Campus processes, including improvements to Rehabilitation Plan (R-3) filings, have received positive feedback and enhanced overall ease of use.
 - Campus reference manuals remain valuable resources and are frequently used to support users needing step-by-step filing guidance.
 - The optional intern checklist has been updated to reflect current rules and statutes, clarify existing information and remove outdated content.

6. Rehabilitation Review Panel overview – Bretta Hines, Office of General Counsel, DLI

- The Rehabilitation Review Panel (RRP), established under Minnesota Statutes section 176.102, subdivision 3, consists of the Department of Labor and Industry commissioner or designee as a nonvoting member and 13 appointed voting members representing employers, insurers, the rehabilitation community, licensed or registered health care providers, a chiropractor and labor.
- RRP advises DLI about vocational rehabilitation services, acts as a liaison to stakeholders, supports public education and studies rehabilitation service delivery and issues within the workers' compensation system.
- RRP also serves as the final decision-maker in registration and discipline cases involving QRCs, QRC interns, QRC firms and vendors, using contested case procedures under Minn. Stat. chapter 14; however, this authority has not been exercised since 2010-2011.
- In contested cases, an administrative law judge issues a recommendation and RRP adopts, rejects or modifies the recommendation during an in-person public meeting; decisions may be appealed to the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.

7. RRP data practices, record retention and open meeting law – Alexis Johnson, Office of General Counsel, DLI

- Alexis Johnson provided an overview about how data practices, record retention and open meeting laws pertain to RRP.
- The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minn. Stat. chapter 13): RRP members work with government data that is governed by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, which presumes government data is public unless classified differently by state or federal law; most government data RRP members handle is public, but private or confidential items may arise in contested matters.
- Records management (Minn. Stat. sections 15.17 and 138.17): DLI is the primary holder of RRP official records; nevertheless, members should keep relevant email messages, handouts or notes during service.
- Open meeting law (Minn. Stat. chapter 13D): RRP meetings are open to the public (with limited exceptions); a meeting occurs when a quorum (majority of RRP members) discusses, decides or receives information about official business – including potentially via email threads; ensure at least one copy of any printed materials provided to members and related to agenda items is available for public inspection at open meetings.

8. Future agenda items – Hokeness and panel

- Any agenda ideas can be emailed to Hokeness or Nathaniel Corcoran.

9. Next in-person meeting: The next in-person meeting is Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 1 p.m.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Scully and seconded by Steve Patton. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.