

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Full Committee Meeting

Apr. 4, 2024
10 a.m.–noon

Committee members present via Zoom:

Scott Strickland, Sheet Metal Workers Local #16
Matt Calzia, Oregon Nurses Association
Sara Duckwall, Duckwall Fruit
Ryan Hearn, Roseburg Forest Products
Stacy Lewallen, Fortis Construction, Inc.
Sarah Merrick, City of Salem Fire Department
Kim Schlessinger, Samaritan Health Services
Margaret Weddell, Labor Representative
Andrew Stolfi, DCBS Director, *ex officio*

Excused:

Patrick Priest, Citycounty Insurance Services

Staff:

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator
Jeff Warburton, MLAC Assistant

Agenda Item	Discussion
(00:01:08)	Opening Scott Strickland called the meeting to order, and Teri Watson called the roll of members. A quorum was not present.
(00:03:35)	Public comment Matt Calzia announced that he is resigning from MLAC immediately. He mentioned that he enjoyed his time in MLAC, but he is struggling to find the balance as he has returned to bedside nursing. Matt Calzia stated that MLAC is a great committee to challenge the interest of insurance companies, and find solutions to increase access to high quality healthcare. He also mentioned that he has been appointed to the Nurse Staffing Advisory Board.
(00:04:27)	Scott Strickland and others thanked Matt Calzia for his service. There were no additional public comments.
(00:07:37)	Review and approve minutes from March 8, 2024 The minutes were deferred to later in the meeting since a quorum was not present.

Department updates

Workers' Compensation Board case law updates – Sara Larson

(00:08:22) There was no case law update.

Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) update – Teri Watson

(00:08:38) There was no Workers' Compensation Division update.

Annual report on Workers' Benefit Fund programs ORS 656.790(3) – Kelli Borushko

(00:10:09) Kelli Borushko, DCBS senior economist, gave a presentation on the [2023 Workers' Benefit Fund Status Update](#).

(00:16:34) Kelli Borushko explained that the cost of living adjustment provided by the Retroactive Program is calculated using the statewide average weekly wage, as calculated by the Oregon Employment Department.

(00:22:15) Kelli Borushko clarified that the unfunded liability is the projected balance going into the future, and it is not a liability that needs to be paid soon. It shows the number of claims being paid with the average payment over the life of the claim.

(00:25:10) Sara Duckwall asked how to better utilize the Workers' Benefit Fund (WBF). Charity Steffen, WCD Employment Services Team manager, answered that she was pleased to see an increase in Employer-at-Injury Program use, which is funded by the WBF. Her team has been participating in outreach to increase return-to-work program usage.

(00:28:15) Kelli Borushko ended the presentation on the 2023 Workers' Benefit Fund Status Update and began her presentation on [Permanent Partial Disability 2023 Biennial Update](#).

(00:39:30) As pertaining to slide number 9, Kelli Borushko will provide additional measures to the data.

(00:41:00) Kelli Boruksho ended her presentation.

(00:41:06) Sarah Merrick was noted as present and a quorum was present. The minutes from the Mar. 7 meeting minutes were presented. Sara Duckwall moved to approve the minutes, and Stacy Lewallen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Survey Feedback Discussion - Teri Watson

(00:42:14) Teri Watson asked MLAC members to fill out the Legislative Session Survey, so it could be discussed in next month's meeting. She also expects approval from the Governor's office to start discussing legislative concepts in May.

-
- (00:43:20) Sara Duckwall suggested sending the survey to stakeholders who want to present to MLAC. Scott Strickland agreed.
- (00:44:41) Teri Watson shared a survey suggestion to schedule all legislative MLAC meetings ahead of time. The survey will be sent out to members again.
- Work plan update – DEI training (June 6), mental health training (Aug. 1), and offsite meeting/listening tour (Oct. 10) – The Dalles, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center**
- (00:47:37) Sara Duckwall suggested providing the number of mental health claims and a general overview of mental health in workers’ compensation alongside the training. Teri Watson will provide an update.
- (00:48:38) The mental health training will be in-person, but there will be hybrid options available. MLAC members expressed their approval.
- Teri Watson will send the mental health training synopsis out to members.
- (00:53:34) Members suggested inviting employers and employees from local agricultural groups, small businesses, self-insured employers, medical associations, and other industries to attend the Oct. 10 off-site meeting.
- (00:56:41) Scott Strickland suggested reaching out to the two ombuds offices and have an administrator explain MLAC processes to new attendees.
- (00:59:52) Sara Duckwall suggested a presentation from the Office of the Small Business Ombudsman to utilize resources better.
- (01:00:55) Teri Watson asked how the QR code on the notice of compliance poster is being received. Sara Duckwall expressed her concern about the Spanish poster having a different landing page as the English poster.
- (01:02:38) Ryan Hearn shared that his coworkers reviewed both posters and they found it useful.
- (01:03:15) Teri Watson suggested cancelling the July 11 meeting. Members agreed.
- (01:04:32) Scott Strickland shared that Workers’ Memorial Day is April 28. On April 26, Oregon AFL-CIO will be honoring 56 Oregon workers that lost their lives in 2023 while working.
- (01:06:00) Scott Strickland adjourned the meeting,

Meeting Adjourned Scott Strickland adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

*These minutes include time stamps from the meeting video found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBZTo1FBswc&feature=youtu.be>

**Referenced documents can be found on the MLAC Meeting Information page here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/mlac/Pages/2024-meetings.aspx>