

Workers' Compensation Advisory Council Meeting

November 18, 2008; 2:00 p.m.

1st Floor Executive Suite Conference Room, LWC

Meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

Chair and Members Present:

Chris Broadwater, Director, OWCA

Ken Hawkins

Cindy Bishop

Charles Davoli

Greg Hubachek

Ted James

David Tatman

Kevin Bridwell

Jim Patterson

Denis Juge

Dickie Patterson

In addition, attending from OWCA:

Sheral Kellar, Chief Judge, Hearings

Goals of today's meeting:

Introduce members and staff. Set future meeting dates. Discuss process of Council.

Welcome and Introductions:

Members and staff were introduced.

Council Members:

- a. Executive Council
 - a. Chuck Davoli
 - b. Jim Patterson
 - c. Denis Juge

- d. Dickie Patterson
- e. Sheral Kellar

- b. Advisory Council
 - a. Greg Hubachek
 - b. Cherie Pinac
 - c. Denis Juge
 - d. Dickie Patterson
 - e. Julie Cherry
 - f. Ken Hawkins
 - g. Chuck Davoli
 - h. Dr. Joe Laughlin
 - i. Jim Patterson
 - j. Michael Morris
 - k. Dr. Mark Kruse
 - l. Clark Cosse
 - m. Troy Prevot
 - n. Vacancy-Medical Society
 - o. Vacancy – Psych. Assoc.
 - p. Vacancy-Gen. Public

Process:

The Director spoke with Luke Letlow from the Governor’s Office of Boards & Commission. The process for Council will include senate confirmation, but will not require any financial disclosures.

Process comments:

Dickie Patterson – public speaking at Council meetings.

Director will honor public comments at Council meetings but will limit their time to speak. The Council only will debate issues.

Expectations:

SLIRC and HLIRC (Senator Riser and Rep. Honey)

Sen. Riser and Rep. Honey expects the Council to do a better job this year with working in advance. Issues need to be passed through the Council, then worked through before taking them before committee(s.). Chris agrees and will honor this request.

Meetings Scheduled:

December 9, 2008 at 9:30-12:00 – agenda items due Dec. 2
Identify issues and objectives, also will have proposed rule changes, along with statutory changes.

January 6, 2008 at 9:30 – 12:00
January 27, 2008 at 9:30-12:00
February 10, 2008 at 9:30 – 12:00
February 19, 2008 at 9:30-12:00
March 3, 2008 at 9:30-12:00
March 17, 2008 at 9:30 -12:00
March 31, 2008 at 9:30-12:00
April 7, 2008 at 9:30-5:00 (lunch will be provided)
April 14, 2008 at 9:30-12:00

Locations will be sent out at a later date. Teresa will be working to secure meeting places.

Teresa will be sending out email notification for meeting notices. We are working on getting a link on the website for the Council. All agenda items are required to be turned in 7 days prior to scheduled meeting (unless the meeting is of an emergency nature).

If a draft of your proposed legislation is available, please provide this so it can be circulated at the meeting.

Important Dates:

April 17, 2008 – Pre-file deadline
April 27, 2008 – Session Begins

Voting:

75% to pass-
Purpose is to provide opportunity for movement that overwhelming majority agree on, without allowing for a solitary veto power or ability to create change by simple force of wills.

Comments:

Dickie Patterson suggested that the Director have veto consensus power.

Jim Patterson stated that the 75% majority to pass is reasonable and would minimize objections from individuals.

Chuck Davoli stated that it is the Council's duty to work as a group and to come up with the best course of action. He agrees with 75% majority to pass.

Goals:

- a. Compress time in the system
 - a. Faster Medical Delivery (UR, IME requirements, Guidelines, payment - Denis and Dickie
 - b. Rule changes – Sheral Kellar will present these at the December meeting and we will take these up for discussion/debate at the January meeting(s).
 - c. Vocational Rehabilitation (Approval of jobs, earlier commencement, tie to workforce development) – Chuck Davoli
 - d. Electronic payment & electronic records – Dickie Patterson
- b. Fee Schedule – Jim Patterson and Clark Cosse will explore
- c. Issues important to Council.

Comments on Goals:

Chuck Davoli's points:

- Vocational Rehabilitation – return to work earlier – offer incentives
- Employer Insurance Fraud
- Attorney Certification
- Un-Insured Employers- Possible fund?
- Updates on UR

Denis Juge

- Numerical limit on workers' compensation coverage

Absenteeism from Meetings:

It was recommended that absent members be required to call the Director ahead of time to communicate their position and or vote and will also submit who they will be sending as proxy to the meeting. These suggestions were received and the Director advised that the Executive Council would meet and establish a process.