

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Full Committee Meeting
Oct. 5, 2023
10:00 a.m.-noon

Committee members present:

Patrick Priest, Citycounty Insurance Services
Scott Strickland, Sheet Metal Workers Local #16
Sara Duckwall, Duckwall Fruit
Margaret Weddell, Labor Representative
Sarah Merrick, City of Salem Fire Department
Andrew Stolfi, DCBS Director, *ex officio*
Ryan Hearn, Roseburg Forest Products
Marcy Grail, IBEW Local 125
Stacy Lewallen, Fortis Construction, Inc.

Excused:

Matt Calzia, Oregon Nurses Association
John McKenzie, JE Dunn Construction

Staff:

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator
Baaba Ampah, MLAC Assistant

Agenda Item	Discussion
Opening (00:00:00)	Scott Strickland called the meeting to order and Teri Watson called the roll of members.
(00:01:26)	New member, Stacy Lewallen from Fortis Construction, was introduced.
(00:02:05)	Public comment There was no public comment
(00:02:50)	Bob Livingston, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Kotek Bob Livingston showed appreciation to MLAC members from the governor's office. He recognized the importance of MLAC, mentioning that workers' compensation is important to the state of Oregon, injured workers, and their families.
(00:04:05)	Patrick Priest thanked Bob Livingston for showing his appreciation to MLAC. Sara Duckwall encouraged Bob Livingston to reach out if there is anything needed from MLAC.

(00:05:11) **Review and approve minutes from Sept. 7, 2023, meeting**
Some members did not have time to review the Sept. 7 meeting minutes, therefore, voting will be moved to the next meeting.

Department updates

(00:06:49) **Workers' Compensation Board case law updates – Lauren Eldridge**
Lauren Eldridge gave a [presentation](#) on the case law update (*Michelle L. Knowlden*).

(00:15:09) Members showed their appreciation to Lauren Eldridge for the presentation. The presentation will be available online after the meeting.

(00:16:57) **Workers' Compensation update – Teri Watson**
Teri Watson gave an update that she will be receiving information on how to send information to stakeholders along with the MLAC Legislative guidelines. The communication to stakeholders should go out in about a week.

(00:18:08) It was made clear that MLAC will consider reviewing a legislative concept before it is drafted. In the communication to stakeholders, it will be stated that a concept does not have to go through the whole LC process in order for MLAC to consider looking at it.

(00:19:11) **MLAC video update – Angela Van Grunsven**
On behalf of Angela Van Grunsven, Teri Watson shared a [condensed version on the Mahonia Hall MLAC video](#) posted on the MLAC website.

(00:23:03) Members discussed and approved the condensed version on the MLAC video. Teri Watson will relay the information to Angela Van Grunsven.

(00:25:48) **OHSU – Institute of Occupational Health Sciences – presentation – Erin Flynn, Amy Spring, and Emily Huang**
Erin Flynn, Outreach Program Director at Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, introduced herself and her colleagues and began the [presentation](#) on “Institute Overview and Update.”

(00:40:25) Sara Duckwall asked how the institute determines continuity through research and ensures that funding remains stable. It was answered that through grant funding, research is monitored and when the research is successful, it is more likely that there would be a follow-on grant. In addition to grant funding, contracts aid in the stability of funding. However, funding is made stable by the workers' compensation funding, which provides a secure base to continue pursuing other funding opportunities.

(00:43:59) The Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences has been around for 30 years.

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- (00:44:24) Amy Spring, Senior Dissemination and Outreach Specialist at Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, continued the presentation on “Educational Programming Addressing Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace.”
- (00:45:27) Psychosocial hazards was defined as a mental hazard caused by conditions in the workplace that can create an inability to work constructively.
- (00:56:37) It was clarified that the target audience is typically occupational health professionals in the industry. The OHSU team has been trying to work with people in unions to educate them about the Total Worker Health Model. The model can be delivered to anyone at any level.
- (01:01:35) It was explained that not all the supervisor training videos are bilingual, but translation and closed captioning are available.
- (01:08:28) Scott Strickland noted that mental health issues are spreading into the community which causes uncaptured impacts. It is fascinating to recognize the work that supportive families have on someone’s ability to show up to work.
- (01:09:53) Amy Spring mentioned that the institute’s supportive leadership website shows the effect of veterans’ struggles on the family. Erin Flynn encouraged the audience to visit OHSU’s website that has many no-cost and low-cost trainings.
- (01:11:37) Emily Huang, Associate Professor and Director of OHSU Safety Lab, mentioned her project on the direct cost and indirect cost of safety. She reported that for every dollar spent on direct cost, there are four dollars associated with indirect costs. She continued the presentation on “The Respectful Workplace Climate Scale.”
- (01:17:03) Emily Huang shared a brief video about the [Safety Climate Lab at OHSU](#).
- (01:35:56) Amy Spring concluded the presentation. She noted that the presentation was to give a sense of research to practice, with a focus on actionable, accessible, educational training tools committed to change and improvement in the workplace.
- (01:38:00) OHSU staff ended their presentation.
- Workplan update -**
- (01:38:35) The discussion shifted to [MLAC Workplan](#).
- (01:38:50) MLAC members were also provided with the [2023-2024 Legislative Interim Legislative Calendar](#).
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- (01:39:26) Patrick Priest asked if the LC request on Nov. 9 would make the November meeting busy. Theresa Van Winkle, DCBS Legislative Coordinator, and Teri Watson clarified that Nov. 9 is when materials are due to legislative counsel.
- (01:40:26) Theresa Van Winkle explained that it is difficult to predict legislative concept timelines. Historically, if interested parties are not yet engaged with the legislative concept, MLAC encourages them to come forward to discuss the concept, so the committee knows what is coming. She mentioned that another important deadline MLAC should consider is when committees have to complete their consideration of bills.
- (01:42:39) Sara Duckwall suggested to cross out “Overview of Boards, Commissions and Small Entities” on the workplan as it is now available in Workday.
- Upcoming meetings – Nov. 2 (hybrid) and Dec. 7 (hybrid)**
- (01:44:08) Sara Duckwall and Marcy Grail will be excused during the Nov. 2 meeting.
- (01:44:45) Scott Strickland encouraged people to reach out in times of a mental health crisis. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of people being more present and self-educating on ways to communicate with individuals in times of need, especially in the workplace.
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Meeting Scott Strickland adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.
Adjourned

*These minutes include time stamps from the meeting audio found here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/dcbs/mlac/Pages/2023.aspx>

**Referenced documents can be found on the MLAC Meeting Information page here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/dcbs/mlac/Pages/2023.aspx>